

## THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF STUDENTS IN MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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*The article considers the issues of translating English medical terminology and analysing the specifics of medical discourse in modern scientific and medical practice. It examines lexical, grammatical and complex transformations used in the translation of medical texts, as well as the peculiarities of written and oral medical translation. Medical translation is considered as a complex type of scientific translation requiring high terminological accuracy, specialized knowledge of medicine, adherence to ethical and legal norms of confidentiality, and adaptation for different target audience. It is substantiated that correct translation of medical terms ensures effective communication between specialists and patients, contributes to the accuracy of diagnosis and treatment, and improves the quality of medical services too. Classification of medical translation according to its types is analysed and the role of lexical and grammatical transformations in providing the accuracy and comprehensibility of the translated English texts is investigated. Medical translation is recognised to be an essential component in training students of medical institutions of higher education and significantly contributes to their mastering English professional terminology and improving communicative competence. Medical translation is considered as an important component of the professional training of medical students, ensuring the development of professional English-language competence. The formation of medical translation skills among students is an essential prerequisite for the development of professional communication and competence of future healthcare specialists. Special attention is paid to adapting translation for various types of intercultural communication, that is conditioned by an increased globalization of medicine and international cooperation. It is emphasized that the relevance of the study is determined by the constant development of English medical terminology as well as by the need to guarantee the patients' safety and to enhance the doctors' professional competence. Prospects for further research in the field of medical translation methodology are highlighted. The issues of developing curricula for students and improving professional training of future healthcare professionals are covered in the study.*

**Keywords:** *medical translation, English medical terminology, professional training of students, professional competence of future healthcare specialists, medical discourse, professional communication, communicative competence.*

### **Кітура Г. Я., Прокоп І. А., Єлагіна Н. Є. Теоретичні аспекти перекладу в англomовній фаховій підготовці студентів медичних закладів вищої освіти**

*Статтю присвячено проблемам перекладу англomовної медичної термінології та аналізу особливостей медичного дискурсу в сучасній науково-медичній практиці. У статті досліджено лексичні, граматичні та комплексні трансформації, що застосовуються в перекладі медичних текстів, а також особливості письмового та усного медичного перекладу. Встановлено, що медичний переклад є складним видом наукового перекладу, який потребує високої термінологічної точності,*

*спеціалізованих знань із медицини, дотримання етичних і правових норм конфіденційності, а також адаптації для різної цільової аудиторії. Обґрунтовано, що правильний переклад медичних термінів забезпечує ефективну комунікацію між фахівцями та пацієнтами, сприяє точності діагностування та лікування, а також підвищує якість надання медичних послуг. Проаналізовано класифікацію медичного перекладу за напрямками та досліджено роль лексичних і граматичних трансформацій у забезпеченні точності та зрозумілості перекладених англомовних текстів. Установлено, що медичний переклад є невід'ємною складовою частиною навчання студентів медичних закладів вищої освіти, сприяє засвоєнню англомовної фахової термінології та розвитку комунікативної компетенції. Медичний переклад розглядається як важливий елемент фахової підготовки здобувачів вищої освіти медичного профілю, що забезпечує формування професійної англомовної компетентності. Формування навичок медичного перекладу в здобувачів вищої освіти є необхідною умовою розвитку професійної комунікації та компетентності майбутніх фахівців охорони здоров'я. Особлива увага приділяється адаптації перекладу для різних аудиторій та міжкультурній комунікації, що зумовлено глобалізацією медицини і міжнародною співпрацею. Підкреслено, що актуальність дослідження визначається постійним розвитком англомовної медичної термінології, необхідністю гарантування безпеки пацієнтів та професійної компетентності лікарів. Висвітлено перспективи подальших досліджень у сфері методології медичного перекладу, включаючи розроблення навчальних програм для студентів та вдосконалення професійної підготовки майбутніх фахівців охорони здоров'я.*

**Ключові слова:** медичний переклад, англомовна медична термінологія, фахова підготовка здобувачів освіти, професійна компетентність майбутніх працівників охорони здоров'я, медичний дискурс, професійна комунікація, комунікативна компетенція.

**The problem formulation.** Nowadays, the modern field of science has reached a high level of development and implementation of new technologies. Simultaneously, scientific and technical terminology is being constantly enriched due to the extension of cooperation with foreign specialists and mutual exchange of experience. The English medical terminology system, being a significant constituent of scientific and technical vocabulary, continually changes, adapts to the present needs, demonstrates a high level of internationalization and the presence of international terms in a daily communication. In modern medical and dental practice, doctors often face an urgent need to understand and translate English terms correctly, use context by reading multiple sentences, avoiding literal translations, and getting familiar with English idioms and collocations. The enrichment of medical vocabulary is substantiated by the globalization of medicine, international cooperation, access to modern scientific publications and the need for correct translation of professional documentation. The main aspects of medical English cover the use of standardized medical terminology for clear and precise communication, international collaboration and research as well as for the need in specific language skills for patient interactions, documentation, professional development, etc. Engaging with English medical texts in the educational process allows students to master specialized terminology, understand

the features of medical discourse, and develop accurate translation skills. The use of authentic scientific publications, medication instructions, and medical equipment manuals in teaching helps develop the professional English-language competence of future physicians. Special attention is given to developing the ability to adapt translations for different target audiences, which contributes to the formation of professional communication skills and enhances the competence of students. Thus, medical translation becomes an integral component of students' professional training and an important tool for improving the quality of professional practice in healthcare.

Indeed, translation aspect of medical discourse is considered one of the most complex issues, it requiring reliability, accuracy, and adherence to linguistic norms. Translating medical documents requires high-level professionalism as any error or discrepancy in the translated text can result in severe consequences, impacting patients' health, safety, and even lives. Inaccurate or incorrect translation in healthcare can lead to misdiagnosis, treatment complications, and communication errors between medical specialists too. This can cause medication errors, incorrect procedures, or delayed treatment, potentially resulting in severe consequences for patients. Therefore, researching current issues and certain difficulties in medical translation is crucial for improving the medical services quality and doctors' professional competence.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The studies by native investigators Fomina L., Kalinichenko O., Skorbach T., Kitura H., Prokop I., Yelagina N., Lobanova V., Semenyuk A., Tryhub H., Khnykina O., Shepitko S., Tarapatov M. and foreign researches Abdelmajd A. E. M., Hassan H., Angelelli C. V., Ismayilli T., Karwacka W., Zethsen K. K., Montalt V. are considered urgent for understanding the specifics of medical discourse and translating medical terminology as they address the issues of highlighting the unique features of medical language within a specific linguistic and cultural context. However, despite the number of studies available, the peculiarities of translating English medical terminology require careful and in-depth analysis thus substantiating the relevance of the present study.

Medical translation is the process of translating texts and documents related to healthcare, medicine, and pharmaceuticals, requiring both linguistic accuracy and specialized knowledge to ensure patient safety and effective communication [10]. It is a complex scientific and technical translation that requires a translator to have a special medical education or a considerable volume of theoretical and practical knowledge, high-quality skills and extensive experience to use correctly standardized medical and clinical vocabulary, as well as abbreviations and complex sentence structures. It is worth mentioning that numerous medical studies related to pandemics, coronavirus diseases, and post-traumatic conditions require translation into other languages, so the importance and quality of medical translation of English lexemes in healthcare is constantly growing [1].

**Research aim and the tasks.** The objective of the present study is to analyse theoretically the challenges in translating English medical terminology, identify the main difficulties and transformational strategies in the written and oral translation of medical texts as well as to improve students' translation accuracy in professional communication for ensuring patients' safety and quality care.

**Research methods.** The study of theoretical aspects of translation in the English professional training of medical students encompassed a set of methods ensuring a systematic analysis of the issue. Analysis and synthesis were used

to substantiate scientific approaches to medical translation, the comparative method helped identify differences between Ukrainian and English medical terminology, and descriptive and semantic analysis revealed the structural and functional features of terms in professional discourse. The methodology combined theoretical examination of linguistic sources followed by simultaneous analysis of authentic English medical texts, including educational materials and translation tasks, enabling the development of effective strategies to enhance students' translation skills through step-by-step work with terminology, diverse texts, and translation techniques.

**Results of the research.** Medical discourse is outlined by its specialized terminology, clear structure, institutional nature, and primary goal of providing patient care. It encompasses not only formal medical documents, medical histories, and prescriptions, but also oral communication between various specialists or between doctors and their patients (history taking, consultations) within a clearly defined professional sphere.

L. Fomina, O. Kalinichenko and T. Skorbach distinguish several principal spheres of medical translation: medical documentation (epicrisis, medical history summaries or medical discharge summaries, records of a person's health information (case histories), laboratory and instrumental examinations findings, operation protocols, expert opinions); documentation for medicinal product clinical trials (clinical trial agreement, study protocol, study brochure, informed consent form, individual registration card); pharmaceutical documentation (instructions for medicinal use of medications, package inserts, information for doctors and patients, quality control documentation); documentation for medical equipment and instruments (operating instructions, manuals, descriptions, advertising materials, catalogues, presentations); websites on medicine, pharmacy, clinical trials, medical equipment and instruments; scientific medical literature (scientific and research articles, conference proceedings, reviews, abstracts, dissertations, monographs, reference books, manuals, textbooks for doctors and students of medical universities) [4].

English scientific and research studies differentiate clinical translation (comprises translation of patients' treatment materials); phar-

maceutical translation (provides translation of drug instructions, labelling, certificates of analysis, clinical trials of drugs); scientific/research translation (deals with the translation of scientific articles, research reports, presentations, and conference materials in the field of medicine and biomedicine); patient/informational translation (includes brochures, treatment consents, information sheets); medico-legal translation (translations of medical records for legal purposes e.g., medical certificates, insurance applications, court certificates, etc.) [10]. Medical translation is considered a multifaceted field that combines linguistic accuracy, specialized medical knowledge, focusing on various forms of medical texts with specific objectives, audience, and a high level of responsibility. Regardless of the medical translation type, the main task of the translator is to convey medical information accurately without distortion taking into account cultural and professional norms for ensuring patients' safety and effective communication in the healthcare system.

V. Lobanova states that medical texts style is distinguished by its clichéd and rigid forms, impersonality, objectivity, logic, accuracy and clarity of information presentation using specific medical terminology... Understanding a medical text depends on the future reader's knowledge of medical terminology. In a medical text, terminological vocabulary, as a rule, comprises 75–80%. However, at the lexical level, neutral or inter-style terminology accounts for approximately 50% of the lexical content of medical texts [2].

Medical translation is broadly categorized into written translation (documents, instructions, articles) and oral interpretation for live communication (the real-time conversion during interactions like doctor-patient consultations or surgeries).

Written medical translation is differentiated into translation of patient documentation (medical certificates, case histories, test and examination results, hospital discharges); pharmaceutical translation (drug annotations, clinical trials, dossiers for drug registration, packaging and labelling); technical translation (instructions, quality and conformity certificates for medical equipment, software); scientific translation (articles, dissertations, monographs, textbooks and manuals); medical content localization (adapting

medical content to a specific region's language, culture, and regulations, ensuring it is accurate, accessible, and appropriate for the target audience). It requires a high level of precision and accuracy, as well as compliance with international standards and legal norms. Unlike interpreting, written translation involves a longer timeframe, allowing the translator to research terminology, use reference materials, and consult with subject matter experts for accuracy.

Medical interpreting is a process of oral mediation between a healthcare professional and a patient who speak different languages to ensure accurate communication about diagnosis, treatment, and other medical matters. It is used during appointments, consultations, surgeries, intensive care or emergency situations. An interpreter must have excellent language skills along with neutrality, confidentiality, and accuracy to provide unbiased, private, and faithful communication. The main types and subtypes of medical translation are presented in Table 1.

Medical interpreting, in turn, is subdivided into consecutive interpreting (the interpreter speaks after a segment of the speaker has finished); simultaneous interpreting (the interpreter speaks at the same time as the speaker, often using headphones); and remote interpreting in telemedicine (is facilitated by specialized technological platforms and software that enable multilingual communication via telephonic and video connections) [7].

Medical translation and interpretation are key components of healthcare communication. Interpretation provides direct communication between the patient and the healthcare professional, requiring speed, accuracy and confidentiality. Written translation encompasses a wide array of documents and scientific materials. This vast scope requires specialized skills from translators, who must often possess subject matter expertise in various fields of medicine, terminological accuracy and follow international standards. Both types of translation complement each other, ensuring clarity and safety of medical information for patients and professionals.

Lexical transformations are frequently used in translating medical texts to overcome challenges like lack of direct equivalents and to ensure the translated text is accurate and understandable for an audience, e.g., changes at the level

Table 1

## Types of Medical Translation

Type of Translation	Subtypes / Examples	Key Requirements
Medical Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– patient documentation: medical certificates, case histories, test results, hospital discharges;</li> <li>– pharmaceutical translation: drug annotations, clinical trials, registration dossiers, packaging, labelling;</li> <li>– technical translation: instructions, quality and conformity certificates for medical equipment, software;</li> <li>– scientific translation: articles, dissertations, monographs, textbooks, manuals;</li> <li>– medical content localization: adapting content to a region's language, culture, and regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– high precision and accuracy;</li> <li>– compliance with international standards;</li> <li>– adherence to legal norms</li> </ul>
Medical Interpreting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– consecutive interpreting:</li> <li>– interpreter speaks after the speaker;</li> <li>– simultaneous interpreting: real-time translation, often via headphones;</li> <li>– remote interpreting: via phone or video (telemedicine)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– accuracy and speed;</li> <li>– confidentiality;</li> <li>– neutrality</li> </ul>

of individual words or phrases in order to convey the exact meaning and maintain clarity in the target language. S. Shepitko and M. Tarapatov distinguish the following types of lexical transformations used in translating medical terms as transcription, transliteration, tracing, lexical-semantic substitutions (concretization, generalization, modulation). The most common grammatical transformations include sentence segmentation, union, syntactic assimilation (literal translation), grammatical substitutions (word forms, parts of speech or sentence members). The complex lexical-grammatical transformations applied in translation are known as antonymic translation, the method of explication (descriptive translation) and compensation, they combine both lexical and grammatical changes to convey meaning accurately [5].

Foreign researchers identify the following types of transformations: lexical substitution – the use of synonyms; lexical borrowing / calque – literal translation of the complex terms; lexical specification – clarifying or detailing the meaning for the target audience; lexical generalization – term generalization to ensure simplicity and consistency; periphrasis / explication – using a description instead of a single term if there is no any direct match [10].

A translated text may contain both non-equivalent and equivalent lexical units. Approximately 40% of the English terminological system has the Ukrainian dictionary equivalents though the degree of equivalence varies from full to partial and sometimes none, depending

on the specific field of medicine. However, when a dictionary provides several interpretations of the same word, the translator must choose the correct equivalent based on the context. Since a single lexeme may have multiple meanings (polysemy), context is crucial to eliminate ambiguity and ensure the translated meaning is accurate to the original source. Lexical transformations are considered fundamental tools in medical translation, as they enable translators to manage the complexities of specialized terminology. The correct use of synonymous substitutions, tracing, concretization, generalization, and explanatory transformations provides terminological accuracy, patient clarity, and compliance with professional standards, both in written and oral translations.

A. E. M. Abdelmajd and H. Hassan [6] consider translating medical terms as an effective means of facilitating the learning process for medical students. The authors emphasize that translation contributes to faster mastery of specialized terminology, increases the accuracy of its understanding and the effectiveness of learning as well as supports the development of students' language competence. Hence, including the translation of medical terms in educational programs is recommended to enhance a level of future medical professionals' training and contribute to their professional success. Furthermore, researches [8] stress effective medical translation training requires a strategic approach that combines understanding of the term structure, its morphological components, and contextual usage.

The author supports the idea that teaching students to understand the morphological and contextual components of terms alongside with their basic definitions leads to improved language proficiency, and eventually to greater translation accuracy. The researcher suggests that comprehensive approach to teaching medical terminology translation should integrate linguistic skills with practical application and cultural competence to prepare students for effective professional communication in the field of medicine.

Therefore, we share the above-mentioned authors' views and opinions that translation of medical terms is a crucial tool for educating medical students as it helps them not only to understand and use the specialized language of medicine correctly, but promotes the development of their language competence, translation accuracy, and effective intercultural communication in the field of healthcare.

Extreme terminological accuracy, specialized vocabulary, and requirements for text comprehensibility, adapted for different audiences – all these make medical translation to differ from the other types. As a specialized field of translation, it involves converting a wide range of healthcare-related documents, scientific articles, patient instructions, and legal medical documents from one language to another.

The common features of medical translation are distinguished as accuracy of terms (incorrect translation of even one lexeme may result in serious consequences for the patient's health); confidentiality (the translator works with personal medical information, which is subject to strict legal protection); adaptation to the audience (the language for medical professionals is different from the language for patients, so the translator must select terms and explanations meeting the needs of the professional community); and cultural sensitivity (an approach that prioritizes patients' cultural background, values, and perspectives to tailor healthcare services to their individual needs) [9]. The specifics of medical translation ought to ensure patients' safety, accurate diagnosis and treatment, effective communication between specialists and patients in compliance with legal requirements and ethical norms. A correct understanding of the clinical context is crucial for a healthcare professional to

interpret evidence accurately and make effective, patient-centred decisions too.

A. Semenyuk, G. Trygub and O. Khnykina argue that medical texts are characterized by specific syntactic structures, stable expressions, noun constructions, as well as by using a brief, forceful, and meaningful statement to convey an idea concisely. They are characterized by a strict, monotonous, practically devoid of any expressiveness style of scientific presentation using terminology and abbreviations [3].

The peculiarities of translating medical terms involve the absolute necessity of high terminological accuracy, specialized vocabulary, and the need to adapt text or oral information for different audiences. A translator must ensure accuracy and clarity through linguistic mastery and deep understanding of the subject matter, account for cultural and linguistic differences by adapting the translation to the target culture without distorting the original meaning, and adhere to ethical and legal standards by maintaining confidentiality and conveying the source text's intent precisely. The above-mentioned features make strict adherence to professional standards critical because any medical translation errors can have severe consequences, including misdiagnosis, incorrect treatment, or legal and ethical violations, etc.

Furthermore, it is also relevant to mention that medical terms translation faces a number of difficulties, including the lack of direct equivalents in the target language, ambiguity of terms, complex Latin and Greek terminology, cultural differences, confidentiality as well as time frame restrictions in oral translation. The aforementioned issues make it difficult to communicate medical information accurately and clearly, increasing the risk of misunderstanding a diagnosis or treatment. Therefore, adherence to professional standards, ethical norms, and lexical transformation methods is crucial for safe and effective communication between healthcare professionals and patients.

Correct medical translation is crucial for a doctor's work in particular and the healthcare system as a whole. It ensures accurate communication with foreign colleagues, provides patient safety and compliance with regulations as well as closely related to international scientific research, and allows accessibility of medical information for people who speak different languages.

**Conclusions and prospects of further research.** Therefore, the present study allows us to draw a number of theoretically grounded conclusions as for the specifics of linguistic analysis, medical translation methods, and peculiarities of language use in professional communication. English medical terminology is high degree of specialization and systematicity necessitates careful translation to maintain accuracy. This is because medical terms often have precise morphological (word structure), semantic (meaning), and stylistic (tone and form) norms that must be followed to provide clear and consistent communication among healthcare professionals across different languages.

Analysis of English medical terminology translation confirms that lexical and grammatical transformations are crucial for achieving accuracy and clarity. Various translation transformations that modify a text to fit the target language include transcription, transliteration, tracing, concretization, meaning modelling, descriptive translation, etc. These transformations help bridge the linguistic gaps between the source and target languages, ensuring the precise transmission of critical medical information where errors can have significant consequences.

The translation of English medical terms is confirmed by studies to be an effective educa-

tional component for students of medical institutions of higher education. It promotes faster mastery of specialized terminology, development of language competence and translation accuracy, thus enhancing the future specialists' readiness for professional communication and international cooperation.

Integrating medical translation into educational programs improves training by comprehensively covering medical terminology and ensuring professional English communication skills for students. This approach allows students to better understand the morphological, semantic, and contextual aspects of medical language, which is crucial for accessing international research and collaborating with professionals globally.

Despite a great number of significant researches, translating English medical terminology remains a complex issue. The main difficulties in translation and interpretation include the lack of direct equivalents in the target language, ambiguity in words, complex morphology (like Latin-Greek roots), significant cultural differences, and the time constraints of simultaneous interpreting. Further studies may be aimed at developing standardized dictionaries, improving medical translation training methods, and creating adaptive tools to automate and support translation in clinical and pharmaceutical practice.

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