

МЕДИЧНІ ТЕРМІНИ-СИНОНИМИ

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MEDICAL TERMS-SYNONYMS

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Ткач Алла. Медицинские термины-синонимы. Цель исследования. Среди основных парадигматических групп в медицинской терминологии ярко представлена синонимия. Это лексико-семантическое явление, которое считается одним из важнейших системообразующих категорий. Проблема синонимии связана с процессом нормализации и медико-клинической терминологической лексики. **Методы исследования.** Применены *сравнительно-исторический* и *описательный* методы, частично – *классификационный* и *статистический*, а также *методика лингвистического анализа*. **Научная новизна.** В нашей статье рассмотрена неоднозначность толкования явления синонимии в украинской медицинской терминологии; выяснены пути возникновения современных синонимов; исследованы особенности формирования синонимических рядов; выявлены характерные признаки, по которым можно классифицировать синонимы клинических терминов. **Выводы.** Результаты проведенной работы показывают, что выбор наиболее удачного термина принадлежит компетенции ученых (медиков, филологов, термиологов). В современной науке имеется разноречивость в использовании терминов на разных языках, отсутствие усилий по ограничению неудачных синонимических рядов, что приводит к многочисленной интерпретации синонимов, и, к сожалению, продолжает оставаться серьезным препятствием в обмене научной информацией, создает серьезные трудности в точном научном переводе медицинской литературы, а также вызывает противоречия в международном сотрудничестве врачей.

Ключевые слова: *термин, терминология, медицинская терминология, явление синонимии, термины-синонимы, эквивалентные и интерпретационные синонимы.*

Introduction. Medical terminology, as well as the system of terms of any other

science, is a certain plurality of interconnected elements that create a stable unity and integrity, endowed with integral properties and regularities. The main conceptual problem of the synchronous research of medical scientific vocabulary is the discovery of theoretical foundations and relationships that provide the organization of medical terms in the system, determine the patterns of its structure, functioning and development.

Therefore, there are a number of problematic questions about the principles of organizing modern Ukrainian medical terminology at the lexical-semantic and word-structured levels. In particular, the phenomenon of terminological synonymy deserves special attention.

Synonymy in terminology (including medical) has features that distinguish it from synonymy in the commonly used vocabulary. Yes, there is a lack of expressive connotations, heterogeneity in terms of symbolic (semiotic) expressions, stylistic differentiation within the scientific style (actually academic, popular science, scientific and educational), differentiation in the areas of use (different degrees of education: from primary to higher, etc.). Despite the fact that synonymy is a natural expression of the laws of language development, in the terminology system it is considered an undesirable phenomenon, because the term should be symmetric in terms of the ratio sign and value. In the process of working with terminology (making dictionaries, manuals, editing texts) very often there are problems with the choice of one term of two or more possible correspondences. Specific industry and general requirements for the term determine which one is urgent to give preference.

Historiography. Many scientists (V. Grechko, V. Zve-

gintsev, G. Ufimtsev, S. Berezhan, Y. Apresyan, O. Nechitylo, O. Tatarenko, M. Kokhergan, A. Bragin, G. Vinokur, etc. studied the problem of synonymy in modern linguistics). The general aspects of the synonymous phenomenon in Ukrainian terminology devoted to their scientific researches by A. Koval, I. Kochan, O. Martyniuk, T. Panko, T. Kyiak, L. Simonenko, I. Borisyuk, N. Tsymbal, A. Tkach, etc. Despite the significant achievements in the study of such a linguistic expression, there is no single common definition and understanding of this phenomenon, which determines the relevance of the proposed work.

The purpose of the article is the linguistic analysis of the phenomenon of synonymy in the modern language of medicine.

It is known that the function of any term is to explain a scientific concept in a short, precise and monosemantic way, to be the mean of its identity and differences in the specialized language. For fulfilling of this function the term, as unity of the form and content, must meet the following requirements:

1. Precision:

a) The content (meaning or semantics) of the term must strictly (clearly) differ from other concepts in the micro term system;

b) The sound complex must not contain the elements which can orient incorrectly concerning the meaning and the volume of the scientific concept.

2. Identity (correspondence): the content of the term must correspond to the modern scientific knowledge about the subject, phenomenon, process, characteristic etc.

3. Monosemy: any sound complex must belong only to one scientific concept.

4. One figuration: the term must be expressed by one

sound formula.

5. The identical characteristics of the concepts must be denoted by the same language units (words, word combinations, abbreviations, parts of the terms) in different terms.

6. The sound complexes expressing the concepts of the same type must be built according to the same structure-semantic model.

7. Deprivation of the emotion expressing (I. Borysiuk, V. Danylenko, T. Kyiak, L. Kovalchuk, A. Kryzhanivska, V. Leichyk, T. Panko, P. Seligei, L. Symonenko, C. Hudoleieva and others)¹.

Thought these requirements are more official the practically used, more ideal than real in such difficult micro systems as medicine. There are certain important reasons why these requirements cannot be met completely.

Synonymy is one of the problems of arrangement of medical terminology. According to L. Kovalchuk, this circumstance is caused by resistance of the language material which obeys the general rules of paradigmatic². The scientist explains that the terminology as a part of general literary vocabulary cannot separate from the rules and the processes of its developments and functioning. Obviously, the author was right writing that a term cannot be precise and at the same time short without causing associations and having a clear inner form focused on the content of the concept and in addition to be productive in a derivational^{conten³t}. Different names for the same concepts develop and function simultaneously in the scientific language for describing of the same concepts with different value and can complete each other.

This concerns also the language of medicine. Synonyms are used almost in all the fields of clinical medicine especially for naming of the diseases, their symptoms and (partly) in the pharmaceutical industry.

On the lexically-semantic level the synonym terms depending on their identity or difference are divided into equivalent and interpretive. The equivalent synonyms contain one motivating characteristic fixed by different word root or derivational elements with the same or similar meaning in their sound complexes. The interpretive synonyms expose different motivating characteristics in their sound system.

Most of the equivalent synonyms in medicine are interlanguage doublets, e. g. multilingual words or word combinations with the identical meaning of the root or derivation elements. Such doublet pairs are mostly represented by the words of Greek-Latin origin and their Ukrainian equivalents. Actually the Ukrainian equivalent is a derivational calque, the following borrowed (in Ukrainian) words have originally Ukrainian equivalents: *alopecias* – облісіння, *auscultation* – вислуховування, *bronchial asthma* – ядуха (дихавиця), *viscerogenic* – нутроцевий, *hemorrhagic* – крововилив, *pertussis* – кашлюк, *leukoma* – більмо, *neoplasm* – новоутворення, *pediculosis* – вошивість, *simulator* – удавальник, *scrofula* – золотуха, *spinal* – хребетний, *thoracal* – грудний, *encephalitic* – мозковий, *photophobia* – світлобоязнь.

A Ukrainian equivalent in a doublet pair is often represented not by one word but by a word combination, for example: *ascites* – черевна водянка, *hemanalysis* – аналіз крові, *гипроохуденатион* – кисневе голодування, *epuresis* – нічне нетримання сечі, *epilepsy* – падуха хвороба, *ischias*

– невралгія сідничного нерва, *croicpous pneunonia* – гостре запалення гортані й трахеї, *cholecystitis* – запалення жовчного міхура, *chondritis and others* – запалення хряща.

Doublet pairs consisting of terms borrowed from different languages are used less often, compare: *anaerobiosis* (Greek) – *anoxymbiosis* (Latin), *genyantritis* (English) – *sinusitis* (Latin), *hemicrania* (Greek) – *hemicrany* (French, Greek), *paradentitis* (Greek) – *alveolar pyorrhoea* (Latin), *silicosis* (Latin) – *pneumonoconiosis* (Greek), *syphilis* (Italian) – *lues* (Latin) and others.

In medical terminology there are also pairs of words where both words come from the same language (*fever* – *chill*, *blain* – *tortoiseshell*, *malaria* – *swamp fever*) and signs consisting of words from different languages (*t⁰* – *temperature*, *Rh* – *rhesus factor*, *AT* – *blood pressure*, *Ca* – *cancer*, *H₂O* – *water*).

There are also Ukrainian monolingual names among equivalent synonyms. Their common motivating characteristic is represented in their sound complexes by the words with different roots or by different word forming elements with the same or similar meaning in current vocabulary (*orifice of the uterus* – *mouth of the uterus*, *German pellitory* – *pellitory-of-Spain*, *belly cavity* – *abdominal space*).

Special types of equivalent synonyms are the synonyms which consist of the full and short variants of the sound complex with the same meaning.

Shortened variants of a term are made in different ways: 1) conversion of a complex term to its shortened form, for example: *acute rheumatic fever* – *rheumatism*, *vegetative neurosis* – *vegetoneurosis*; 2) by means of abbreviation, for example, using the first letters of the words: *heart-lung apparatus* – *CPB pump*, *infantile cerebral paralysis* – *ICP*, *erythrocyte sedimentation rate* – *ESR*, *neurocirculatory asthenia* – *NCA*; 3) by means of elision of one of the components of a complex word: *iontophoresis* – *iontophorsis*, *leukocytolysis* – *leukolysis*, *oxygen meter* – *oxy meter*, *symptomatic* – *semiological* and others.

In general the equivalent synonyms do not make regulation of the medical terminology difficult as they do not have semantic differences which would call doubts concerning the identity of the meaning of the words. Still limiting in using of these synonyms, needless dimorphism in particular, is a problem for terminologists, authors of different dictionaries, reference books, text books and other medical scientific literature.

Presence of a great number of interpretive synonyms in the medical terminology is determined by extralinguistic factors such as peculiarities of medical theory and practice. Firstly, there is a certain criterion for indicating of some distinguishing properties of terminologisation of the words according to different motivating criteria. For example, both old-fashioned and modern terms can be used for determining of the same disease, for example: *waterpox* – *zoster*, *mumps* – *parotiditis*, *tuberculosis* – *white plague*, *malaria* – *swamp fever*, *plague* – *pest*, *chloremia* – *green-sickness* and others. Secondly, in conjunction with deeper and more detailed exploration of the naming subjects the scientific knowledge about it gets wider.

That is why it becomes necessary to add sound complexes to the term in order to better exposition of the motivating criterion, for example: *angeohemophilia* – *aleukia*

³ Koval'chuk L. Y. Sinonimiya terminiv u rosijs'komu usnomu naukovomu movlenni [Synonymy terms in the Russian scientific oral speech] avtoref. dys. na zdobuttya nauk. stupenya kand. filol. nauk, Odesa, 1993, P. 12.

ication group of the concepts, for example: *ancylostomiasis* – *miner's anemia* – *tropical anemia* – *Egyptian chlorosis*; *infectious hepatitis* – *hepatitis A* – *Botkin's disease*; *thyrotoxicosis* – *Basedow's disease*; *Marie-Strinippel disease* – *Bechterew disease* and others.

There are certain problems in regulation of the interpretive synonyms connected with synonymy, homonymy and word significance. Synonyms determinate the same concept and not different concepts. The only basis for their identification is the scientific definition and description. Without these parts it is difficult to determine whether the medical term determines the concept in its entirety or only certain characteristics of it. The most appropriate to the concept term must be determined, for example: *osseous rheumatism*, *infectious polyarthritis*, *chronic polyarthritis* – *rheumatoid arthritis*; *exophthalmic ophthalmoplegia*, *Graves disease* – *malignant exophthalmos*.

Choosing of the most suitable term is the task of scientists (health professionals, philologists, terminologists) though in modern medicine terms in different languages are used and there are no efforts directed on limiting in using of inappropriate synonyms which leads to numerous interpretation of the terms and it is still an obstruction in exchange of scientific information and causes difficulties in precise scientific translating of medical literature.

Ткач Алла. Медичні терміни-синоніми. Мета дослідження. З-поміж основних парадигматичних груп у медичній термінології яскраво представлена синонімія. Це лексико-семантичне явище, яке вважається одним із найважливіших системотвірних категорій. Проблема синонімії пов'язана з процесом нормалізації й медико-клінічної термінологічної лексики. **Методи дослідження.** Застосовано порівняльно-історичний та описовий методи, частково – класифікаційний і статистичний, а також методика лінгвістичного аналізу. **Наукова новизна.** В нашій статті вперше системно розглянуто неоднозначність тлумачення явища синонімії в українській медичній термінології; з'ясовано шляхи виникнення сучасних

синонімів; досліджено особливості формування синонімічних рядів; виявлено характерні ознаки, за якими можна класифікувати синоніми клінічних термінів. **Висновки.** Результати проведеної роботи засвідчують, що вибір найбільш вдалого терміна належить компетенції учених (медиків, філологів, термінологів). У сучасній науці наявний різномір у використанні термінів різними мовами, відсутність зусиль щодо обмеження невдалих синонімічних рядів, що зумовлює численні інтерпретації синонімів, і, на жаль, продовжує залишатися серйозною перешкодою в обміні науковою інформацією, створює неабиякі труднощі у точному науковому перекладі медичної літератури, а також викликає суперечності у міжнародному співробітництві лікарів.

Ключові слова: термін, термінологія, медична термінологія, явище синонімії, терміни-синоніми, еквівалентні й інтерпретаційні синоніми.

Ткач Алла – кандидат філологічних наук, доцент кафедри суспільних наук та українознавства Вищого державного навчального закладу України „Буковинський державний медичний університет”. Автор та співавтор понад 100 наукових та навчально-методичних праць, з-поміж яких 3 монографії, 5 навчальних та навчально-методичних посібників з грифом МОН та МОЗ України. Наукові інтереси: сучасна українська медична термінологія; методика викладання української мови як фахової у вищій школі; культура мовлення медичного працівника.

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