

ФИЛОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ НАУКИ

BORROWED LEXICAL TERMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OF MEDICINE

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ЗАИМСТВОВАННЫЕ ЛЕКСИЧЕСКИЕ ТЕРМИНЫ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ МЕДИЦИНЫ

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ABSTRACT

The article aims to review notion and issues of borrowed words and the ways of using English borrowed words that are employed in the field of medicine. The article seeks to identify the lexical, morphological structure of English loan words, and analyzes medical borrowed words and translations in Karakalpak language. In the article, descriptive, comparative analysis methods are used. Moreover, the author considers that there are some differences and the similarities that exist between the English and Karakalpak medical borrowed words and their expressions. As medicine having a long history, it is obvious that different nations might have contributed to its development that has been accompanied by the creation of the terminology necessary to describe the discoveries made and to express the concepts that evolved in the course of this development. Therefore, our purpose in this paper is to highlight some of the linguistic contributions made to Medical English by a number of foreign medical languages.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье рассматриваются понятия и проблемы заимствованных слов, а также способы использования английских заимствованных слов, которые используются в области медицины. В статье описаны представления о лексической, морфологической структуре английских заимствованных слов, проанализированы медицинские заимствования и их переводы на каракалпакский язык. В статье использованы описательный, сравнительный методы анализа. Более того, автор считает, что существуют некоторые различия и сходства между английскими и каракалпакскими медицинскими заимствованными словами и их выражениями. Поскольку медицина имеет долгую историю, очевидно, что разные народы могли внести свой вклад в ее развитие, которое сопровождалось созданием терминологии, необходимой для описания сделанных открытий и выражения концепций, которые возникли в ходе этого развития. Таким образом, наша цель в этой статье - осветить некоторые лингвистические вклады, внесенные в медицинский английский некоторыми иностранными медицинскими языками.

Key words: medical terms, English for specific purposes (ESP), borrowed words, lexical terms, lexical competence.

Ключевые слова: медицинские термины, английский для специальных целей (ESP), заимствованные слова, лексические термины, лексическая компетенция.

1. Introduction

Currently, it has been shown that the English language is one of the most spoken languages. Also, it has borrowed thousands of words from other languages. English becomes a language of business communication worldwide since it penetrates into various fields being an international language. A huge portion of new words in Karakalpak language vocabulary has been taken from English and other languages due to the development of technology. The importance that has always been attached to the suffering of body and soul suggests that medical texts are amongst ancient domains of translation. Due to the development of medical sciences and the need to term new concepts, medical language evolved over the centuries and medical vocabulary has continuously been expanded to some extent. In order to understand how medical language has changed and how new terms

have been coined the following paragraphs will highlight what have been the most significant facts in the evolution of medical language. The scientific methods that characterize modern western medicine are traceable to Classic and Hellenistic Greece, when the Greek physician Hippocrates first attributed illness to physical causes. The importance of Hippocrates' thought derives from the fact that he distinguished medical practice from priestly ministrations and pioneered the belief that poor health should be examined through logical reasoning and actual observation. Hippocrates and his successors produced medical texts in Greek and many of the anatomic, pathologic and therapeutic terms found in those texts remain in use today some of them with little or no change in the meaning [4, p. 9]. During the classical era, Greek medical writing was the most important

medium for medical scholars to communicate their ideas.

As far as the Karakalpak language is concerned, there might not still be any established and widely accepted language of medicine in medical publications. Before, there used to be a tendency to use popular terms in some medical articles. Currently, there might not be found justifications for this, since those are publications of professionals. Also, except from this, Karakalpak medical terms have been either forgotten or rejected in favour of Greco-Latin terms predominantly used by doctors. As a result of the increased impact of English as an international language of medicine, there have appeared numerous anglicized terms. Thus, the Karakalpak medical language is a disorganized mixture of Greco-Latin and anglicized terms. This can be also applied to other languages of limited diffusion due to the fact that medical terminology is mostly based on Latin, but recently English has had a strong influence on medical language at all language levels. Today, it is seen that English for specific purposes (ESP) represents a necessity and in terms of its practical value has a greater relevance than English for general purposes.

2. Literature review

The Latin language served as a universal language for scholarly communication among 1000-1800 AD, and being the language of the Roman Empire that included most of Europe, part of Asia and Africa, Latin assumed the role of lingua franca of medicine. To the early modern era, the language of medicine consisted largely of Latin terms and still today it remains the official language of anatomic terminology and taxonomic nomenclature [4, p. 9]. However, as a result of the increasing need to communicate with non-university-trained physicians, students and patients, Latin as the language of medicine was almost entirely replaced by local languages even though all of them retained the Greco-Latin terminological core [1, p. 40]. Also, throughout history, dominance in knowledge has implied repercussions on the language used in medical discourse, as the case with the English language.

Furthermore, Greek and Latin are still the basis for medical terminology because they are precise and internationally comprehensible [1, p. 40]. One of the most systematic continuing use of medical Greek and Latin is in the official *Nomina Anatomica (anatomical terms, abbreviated NA)*, a standardized list of anatomical terms. Greek and Latin-based terms could be analyzed from prefixes, roots and suffixes so that the meaning is readily understood, for instance: *ultrami - crotomy; ultra - excess, beyond; micro - minute, small; tomy - cutting (hence, the technique of cutting into very thin pieces* (in Table 1).

Borrowing word from other languages is another important source of new words. Fromkin and Rodman stated borrowing occur when one language adds to each other lexicon a word or morpheme from another language, often altering its pronunciation to fit the phonological rules of the borrowing language. According to Crystal, borrowing words is the production of words (or some other linguistic feature) from one language. He also pointed out that loanword is a linguistic unit that has come to be used in a

language where both form and meaning are borrowed, assimilated, with some adoption to phonological system of the language [2, p. 46].

Borrowing words between languages is normal if there were language contact between the speakers, the borrowing process would happen. The borrowing word or loanword itself can be influenced by some factors such as less vocabulary, prestige needs, tourism and economics aspect, and survival strategy [8, p. 39]. Those factors caused the changing of sound and vocabulary. The writer found one hundred items data of English loanwords especially in sports terms. Those loanwords can be divided in two groups and became phonological changes. Borrowing might go in both directions between the two languages in contact, such as English and Karakalpak, and others. Some linguists pay much attention to the research on the borrowed words such as words produced in the process of borrowing (in both English and Karakalpak vocabularies) while few of them relate borrowed words to its significance for English as foreign language (EFL) learners.

3. Methodology

The English language of medicine has been understood well and extensively studied. It serves as a model for other nations how to create their languages of medicine. The Greco-Latin basis of terms is but one feature of the language of medicine, which, in the case of English, manifests a special preference for synonym, eponym, acronym and abbreviation use (such as: *myopia-miopiya*, *shortsightedness-ko'z nurinin' pa'seyiwi*; *Parkinsonism-parkinson keselligi*; *laser-lazer*; *AIDS-AJSP*). There are a number of forms specific for the English language of medicine. There is a very precise and elaborate popular terminology related to illnesses (apart from the technical Greco-Latin term herpes zoster, there is a native English word shingles). Thus there is a tendency to use a descriptive term taken from everyday language rather than a learned expression. Moreover, ordinary words with medical meaning are more frequently used (*growth for tumour or temperature for fever*).

Such words are termed semi-technical words [9, p. 129]. In clinical medicine there are a number of technical idiosyncratic phrases which in the context of everyday speech and writing sound, to put it mildly, strange (for example: *the patient presented with jaundice*). Also, in the English language of medicine there are noun strings plus necessary adjectives (*less often verbs and adverbs*) forming a concept with a single noun idea that are *nominal compounds*. The English language of medicine is full of such compounds [9, p. 535].

Among grammatical and syntactic features of English for medical purposes, the following may be singled out below, in the English and Karakalpak languages:

1. Reporting verbs, for example: *The patient reported severe side-effects - Nawqas qa'wipli belgilerdi ko'rsetti.*

2. Non-temporal use of Tenses (present, past mostly), for example: *He goes to hospital tomorrow - Ol erten' keselxanag'a baradi.*

3. Passive, for example: *It should be noted that phase-contrast microscopy is not useful with fixed and stained material* - *Soni esapqa aliw kerek, mikroskopiya qatti tig'iz material menen paydalanilsa, jaqsi na'tiyje ko'rsetpeydi.*

4. Modals, for example: *It must have been Tuesday when she went to the doctor's* - *Onin' shipakerge barg'an ku'ni Piyshembi bolsa kerek.*

5. Conditional expressions, for example: *If she falls over, she'll hurt herself* - *Eger ol jig'ilip tu'sse, o'zi o'zine jaraqat jetkizedi.*

Thus, languages of medical science should also be further developed. Also, teacher education programs need to be introduced at philological faculties. This applies to medicine as well, since there has been an increasing number of new terms and expressions as a

result of ongoing huge development of medical science and practice. In this case, collaboration between medical language experts, on one hand, and medical researchers, doctors and other health professionals, on the other, it is indispensable. The English language has gone through many periods in which large numbers of words from a particular language were borrowed. It doesn't only borrow from other languages but also is borrowed by other languages. The more contacts, the more loan words the language will acquire.

4. Results and Discussion

When we compare articles in the English language with their Karakalpak versions, it can be observed that metaphorical expressions do not change in the two languages.

Table 1.

Some English and Karakalpak medical terms used in their Greco-Latin form, we can see this in the following [5, 6, 10]:

Latin	English	Karakalpak
laryngitis,-tidis,f.	laryngitis	laringit
herpes,-etis,m.	herpes	gerpes
discus,-i,m.	disc	disk
paralysis,-is,f.	paralysis	paralish (dene bo'limleri islemey qaliwi)
sinus,-us,m.	sinus	sinus
anaemia,-ae,f.	anaemia	anemiya
nervus,-i,m.	nerves	nerv
asthma,-atis,n.	asthma	astma
carcinoma,-atis,n.	carcinoma	karsinoma
cancer,-i,m.	cancer	rak
libido,-dinis,f.	libido	libido
nephritis,-tidis,f.	nephritis	nefrit
polypus,-i,m.	polyp	polip

Table 2.

Structural and meaning inconsistencies in using English medical terminology in the following:

Terms	Medical meaning	Meaning in Karakalpak
Acute	Rapid	awir/qa'wipli
Numb	Lack of cutaneous sensation	normadan tisqari seziw
Chronic	Long term	uzaq dawam etiwshi/dawamli/sozilmali
Migraine	A specific headache syndrome	qatti bas awiriwi
Cancer	Histologically malignant	uluwma joq etiwshi

Thus, in the examples above, we can see that there are some differences and similarities in the meanings and translations of these medical terms in Karakalpak language. Language, both an important tool in human communication and a significant reflection of social development, undergoes rapid changes during the histories. As Sapir puts, Languages, like cultures, are rarely sufficient unto themselves. The necessities of intercourse bring the speakers of one language into direct or indirect contact with those of neighboring or culturally dominant languages [11, p. 159]. Therefore, the result of continuous contact between different speaking communities is that people use each other's words to refer to some particular things, process, or ways of thinking. This kind of using others' languages is called borrowing, which is a natural result of language contact and exerts a profound impact on both vocabulary enrichment and mutual understanding of cultures.

In English for specific purposes, differences are made between terms or specialist vocabulary and semi-technical, sub-technical, context-independent academic words that occur with high frequency across disciplines [7, p. 152]. Words can have special meanings in specific fields, or one or more general English meanings, or have an extended meaning in specific fields. Students should be aware of the difference between sub-medical and proper medical terminology because the choice depends on the audience. As Coxhead and Nation write about four categories: high frequency words; the academic vocabulary (sub-technical vocabulary); technical vocabulary; and low frequency words [3, p. 252]. Terms are often cognate with the equivalent term in the students' first language and pose only pronunciation difficulties (*diagnosis - diagnoz, or pneumonia - pnevmoniya*). Non-cognate terms, especially subtechnical concepts, need explanation and a different pedagogical approach

(*history – ta'riyx, or strain - basim*). English has a synonym in everyday speech for many medical terms, such as *hemorrhage/bleeding* or *myopia/shortsightedness* [5, 6, 10].

5. Conclusion

Thus, borrowing and lending lead to the merging of different languages from different nations and form new English words. Currently, modern English language has developed a set of scientific and technological terms common to and used by all languages as is true with politics, media, and finance. Although many words from French, German, Russian, Spanish, Japanese, and Arabic have been incorporated into the English language, its wide usage, flexibility, tolerance, as well as creativity make it possible to be the main body of international language in the merging of vocabularies. The underlying cause of linguistic and semantic borrowing is mainly the need for any language as a means of communication and expression to take account of changes in the non-linguistic world. Although the majority of foreign words listed in this paper are usually not new accessions to medical English, their inclusion in a medical up-to-date, well-known and prestigious dictionary such as the Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary as well as in other consulted sources evinces that at least some of them are still in use today [5, 6]. Furthermore, their presence in this medical dictionary is on the one hand a proof of their contribution to the growth of the English language of health sciences and, on the other hand, that they belong to the medical English word stock.

Nevertheless, their sometimes non-English morphological structure, pronunciation, and spelling illustrate that some of them have never been completely assimilated despite being adopted a long time ago. Some of the words borrowed are the kind of patterns into which these words fall. The bulk of loans borrowed belong to the nominal category, the adjectival one playing a very small role in the growth of medical English language. This nominal category includes different structures, mainly eponymous expressions, derivatives (usually involving suffixed forms), compounds, toponyms and even shortenings. This varied composition leads to state that medical English is like any other medical language in the world, a museum in words from different origins [4, p. 65], and

that borrowing has to be contemplated as a reflection of the standing progress of medicine that needs an appropriate increase in its vocabulary to provide a fluid scientific communication.

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