THE USE OF EPONYMOUS TERMS IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE AND DIFFICULTIES OF THEIR TRANSLATION

Summary. Eponymous terms are a linguistic phenomenon that has its own specifics and characteristics that must be taken into account by both physicians and translators in order to obtain correct and accurate translation. Medical professionals know how many difficulties there are in the use of eponymous terms in the language of medicine and in translation of various medical texts, medical documentation, medical articles of a scientific nature.

The difficulties of translation are associated with the presence of two or more personal names, the synonymy of eponymous terms, the complete coincidence of anthroponyms, different transliteration of anthroponyms and the difficulty of their pronunciation. Terms-eponyms that have several different meanings represent a particular difficulty for the translator.

Key words: eponymous terms, medical professionals, medical texts, translation, difficulties.

The problem of research. The translation problem of eponymous medical terminology is that the translation of medical eponyms does not allow a free translation. Translation of eponymous terms is an area of scientific translation, it must be definite and precise. Translation error can have irreversible consequences.

The actuality. Currently, scientific and terminological discussions about the use of eponymous terms are actively continuing, and this stipulates the relevance of the topic under consideration. Linguists, who oppose the use of terms- eponym in medical practice, put forward the difficulties of their translation as one of their arguments. This article is devoted to explanation of some difficulties in translating such terms, to inform a translator about possible mistakes in translation.

Analysis of publications. Many linguists paid attention to the problems of eponymous terms. Judith A Whitworth, Alexander Woywodt, Eric Matteson, E.M. Kakzanova, Tatiana Canziani, Boże na Džoganova – dedicated their works to the expediency of using eponymous terms, their advantages and disadvantages. N. Jana, S. Barik, N. Arora wrote about a need for global uniformity of medical eponyms in scientific publications. A large number of linguists examined the problems of translation of eponyms, among them are: V. Komissarov, P. Newmark, R. Bell, S.V. Shvetsova, V. Karaban, Y. Ryzer, T.A. Kazakova, E.V. Smirnova.

However, the problem of the classification of terms-eponyms still remains unsolved. A better understanding of translation problems would make this task easier.

The aim of the article is to analyze and highlight the peculiarities and the main problems of translation of eponymous terms in the field of medicine and inform translators about possible mistakes in translation. The main task is to draw attention of medical men and translators to the problem of this terminological group which includes a great number of terms-eponyms.

The terms are divided into general scientific and highly specialized. General scientific terms are common words that have acquired a very narrow meaning and are used in everyday speech, business documents, and as terms of a specific field of science. Such terms are simple, accessible, understandable.

Highly specialized terms are words or phrases that denote concepts that reflect the specifics of a particular field of science, for example, medical. These terms are characterized by: motivation; accuracy; indifference to context; unambiguity; stylistic neutrality; the presence of a strictly accurate definition; lack of synonyms and homonyms.

Unambiguity and clarity of the scientific term, the exact correspondence to the subject (concept) – these are the qualities that are reflected in the nomenclature codes of different branches of medicine. The term does not bear any stylistic coloring, it is neutral. But in medical terminology, this is only the main trend.

In the term system of medicine, eponyms constitute a separate category, which represent a considerable part of medical terminology. Eponyms do not meet all these requirements and this is considered to be their shortcomings, which complicate the translation of medical texts.

The words of the medical lexicon have absorbed a lot of the history of past eras, taken from other spheres of human culture.

Medicine has long been replete with a large number of eponymous terms. It studies the physiological and pathological processes in the human body, first discovered and described by medical scientists in the field of human anatomy, disease descriptions, diagnostics and treatment methods.

Proper name (anthroponym), being a part of these unique signs, is intended to identify and individualize the denoted concept. Epoch determines consciousness. The long historical stage of the formation of medical terminology had a great influence on its lexical composition. In medicine there are terms that can be considered as relics of past cultural eras.

The mythical proper names from the Latin and Greek languages have played a great role in the development of the terminological system of the language of medicine. Especially widely mythological and the names of the characters of fiction are used in the field of psychology: Napoleon complex, Oedipus complex, Electra complex. [1, p. 507, 506].

Bible stories have also become a source of terms in medicine. The society in which the religious elite dominates, is characterized by the inseparable link of the original medical knowledge with reli-
Translation of medical texts is one of the most responsible types of translation, since it requires not only a good command of the language, but often is not fully possible without appropriate medical knowledge. The translator must have sufficient knowledge of the anatomy, physiology and etymology of diseases and be familiar with specific terminology in narrower areas of medicine. The translator of medical texts should be so precisely oriented in the subject so that he could confidently identify the meaning of the term and correctly define its interpretation.

Difficulties in the use and translation of eponyms are closely related to their shortcomings.

The problem of synonymy in medical terminology is one of the main problems and is characteristic of most languages. “Eponyms, unlike their terminological synonyms, are brief and do not express the essence of the nominated phenomena in medicine, they are not associated with signs or the internal form of the denoted concept, since the basic meaning of a proper name is in its connection with the denotation. It is for this reason that a synonymous name appears in medical terminology to designate an object or phenomenon, originally called by a proper name, in the structure and content of which signs of the designated concept are reflected” [5, p. 193].

Researchers of terminology consider the phenomenon of synonymy extremely undesirable in the scientific language of medicine. This problem can be both within one language and between different languages, i.e. different countries and accordingly languages have their own eponymous terms.

Synonymy within one language is represented, as a rule, by an eponymous term and its qualifying synonym, for example Horton’s disease, named after Bayard Taylor Horton, an American physician, 1895–1980, has the synonym giant cell arteritis and cluster headache.

Interlingual synonymy is presented by the eponymous terms because each national culture and science has its own traditional eponyms, for example the term for atrophic chronic, progressive skin disease of the extremities is called in Austria as Pick’s disease and in USA it is called as Taylor’s disease (named after R.W. Taylor, American physician); the term for ankylosing spondylitis is used as Bekhterev’s disease in Russia and Marie-Strümpell disease in Germany, Denovilliers’ fascia (described by the French anatomist) and Tyrrell’s fascia (described by the English physician) are used correspondingly in their countries to designate the part of the pelvic fascia that separates the prostate and the vesiculae septum from the rectum.

Grave’s disease (R.J. Grave, Ireland 1835), known in Italy as Flajani’s disease (G. Flajani, Italy 1802) or Basedow-Flajani disease but known in Germany as Basedow’s disease (K.A. von Basedow, Germany 1840), megacolon known as Hirschprung disease in Denmark, as Raysch disease in the Netherlands and as Morbo di Battini or Morbo di Mya in Italy [5, p. 230].

Eponymous names that have different anthroponyms, but denoting the same concept, cause confusion in the use of eponymous terms, make their translation difficult and create a significant translation problem.

Sometimes the names of two people coincide completely and then confusion arises, which of the scientists is mentioned in this medical context. In such cases, it is necessary to correlate the name of the scientist and the field of medicine in which he worked and made a discovery or described the disease. It is advisable to find additional information about the scientist to be sure which country his activity is related to.
Complicating the translation of the text is the use of an eponymous term in which it is difficult to determine which particular phenomenon is being discussed, if there are several such terms named after this scientist, for example, there is 3 terms of Babinski's sign, 6 terms of Bekhterev's reflex, 3 terms of Kocher's incision, 3 terms of Kocher's method.

When translating, it is necessary to take into account the fact that in different countries anthroponyms as a part of eponymous terms have their own special transliteration inherent only to the language of this country. Difficulties arise when translating such terms into other languages: eponym Bechterew's disease is written as Bechterev's disease and in some texts it is written as Bekhterev's. Filatov's disease, infectious mononucleosis, is also spelled as Filatov's disease; Rot's disease has another variant of spelling - Roth's disease; there are also two variants of spelling: Abrikosov's and Abrikosoff's tumour [1, p. 674, 684, 2453].

Every language has its peculiarities of pronunciation but the dictionaries do not give the transcription of eponymous terms. The absence of transcription complicates their pronunciation by specialists for whom the language is not a native one: Alajouanine's syndrome, Chauffard's syndrome, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, Cruvelhier-Baumgarten syndrome, Bouillaud's sign, Daae's disease. This phenomenon complicates the correct translation of the proper name and its pronunciation, which can cause confusion while exchanging the scientific information. In such cases, it is advisable to adhere to the pronunciation of the name characteristic of the country from which the scientist comes.  

Conclusion. Eponymous terms play a great role in medical terminology. According to some information in some areas of medicine they can range from 3 to 30% of the terminological composition. Undoubtedly, they enrich the language of medical professionals, make it more vivid and expressive paying tribute to those physicians who have contributed to the development of medicine. The task of translators is to prevent mistakes in translation, to give an accurate and clear interpretation of eponymous terms, thus contributing to further emergence and use of eponyms.

References:

Шалаева А. В., Семенко И. В. Вживання епонімічних термінів у галузі медицини та труднощі їх перекладу

Анотація. Епонімічні терміни є лінгвістичним феноменом, який має свою специфіку та особливості, що необхідно брати до уваги як медикам, так і перекладачам для отримання правильного і точного перекладу. Спеціалісти-медики знають, скільки є труднощів під час уживання епонімів у мові медицини і під час перекладу різних медичних текстів, медичної документації, медичних статей наукового характеру.

Труднощі перекладу пов'язані з наявністю двох і більше власних імен, синонімією епонімічних термінів, повним збігом антропонімів, різною транслітерацією та труднощами їх вимови. Терміни-епоніми, які мають декілька різних значень, становлять особливі труднощі для перекладу.

Ключові слова: епонімічні терміни, медики-фахівці, медичні тексти, переклад, труднощі.