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## MILITARY TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLES: FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS

**Summary.** The article examines the peculiarities of military terminology in contemporary English-language news discourse in the context of a globalized information space. The relevance of this work is determined by the active role of English-language media in shaping public perceptions of armed conflicts, security, and defense policy in a globalized information space. In the 21st century, military issues have become one of the central segments of international news discourse, which is associated with large-scale geopolitical transformations, regional conflicts, and the development of hybrid forms of warfare and military operations. The dynamic development of military technologies, the emergence of new types of weapons, the digitization of combat operations, and the intensification of information confrontation are causing active updating and expansion of the military terminology system. In these conditions, it is particularly important to study the peculiarities of the functioning of military terms in news texts, since it is the media that act as intermediaries between professional military language and the mass audience. Particular attention is paid to the processes of semantic transformation of military terms in the media environment, their simplification, acquisition of additional connotations, and adaptation to the needs of mass communication. The object of the study is military terminology in English-language media discourse, in particular in news articles from leading information resources. The subject of analysis is the linguistic, semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic characteristics of military terms, as well as models of their contextual use. The aim of the work is to determine the peculiarities of the functioning of military terms in contemporary English-language news texts and to identify patterns of their adaptation to various communicative tasks. The classification parameters of military vocabulary by semantic groups are considered. The main contextual models of military terms functioning in the media are outlined: descriptive-analytical, definitional, interpretative-evaluative, political-communicative, emotionally intense, chronicle-operational, and metonymic. It is proven that military terminology in news discourse performs not only nominative and cognitive functions, but also axiological, regulatory, and manipulative functions, influencing the formation of narratives and public opinion.

**Key words:** military terminology, term, mass media, media discourse, news article.

**Problem statement.** In the modern globalized information space, military topics occupy an important place, since English-language news resources significantly influence the formation of public perceptions of armed conflicts, security and defense policy. The rapid development of military technologies, the emergence

of hybrid forms of war and cyber operations lead to the expansion of the terminological apparatus, which in media discourse often undergoes semantic changes, simplifications or acquires additional connotations. Analysis of the use of military terms in news texts allows us to trace the adaptation of special vocabulary to the needs of mass communication and to identify the balance between accuracy and accessibility of information for an unprepared reader. The relevance of the study is also predetermined by the socio-political and translational aspects of the functioning of military terminology. The choice of lexical units in the media can have an ideological or manipulative influence, forming evaluative guidelines and public opinion, and English-language sources often serve as the basis for intercultural communication. Therefore, the study of the patterns of the use of military terms in news articles is important both for linguistics and media studies, and for translation studies and information security, providing a deeper understanding of the role of language in creating media reality and influencing mass consciousness. The object of the study is military terminology in English-language media discourse, in particular in modern news articles. The purpose of the study is to investigate the peculiarities of military terms and models of their contextual use in modern English-language news articles.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** In recent years, research on military terminology has become increasingly active in Ukrainian linguistics. This is due to both the socio-political situation and conditions of full-scale armed aggression, as well as the need to systematize and standardize the terminology of the state language. In scientific and public discourse, there is a growing demand for a clear, standardized, and at the same time accessible terminological apparatus capable of adequately reflecting the latest military realities and ensuring effective professional communication. Ukrainian researchers have made a significant contribution to the development of individual subsystems of military vocabulary. In particular, a comprehensive analysis of naval terminology as a component of general military vocabulary was conducted [1], combining historical and functional approaches; methodological principles for the linguistic analysis of military terminology using a structural and functional-semantic approach were proposed [2]. A separate area of contemporary research is related to the problems of translation and standardization of military terminology [3; 4; 5], particularly in the context of harmonizing Ukrainian terminology systems with NATO standards. These studies focus on issues of interlingual equivalence, unification of documentation, and adaptation of terms to international standards. Thus, the development of modern Ukrainian military terminology is considered not only a linguistic

task, but also a sociocultural and geopolitical one, requiring a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach.

**The main material of the study.** Military terminology of the English language is a complex, polystructural and dynamic system of specialized nominations that reflect the concepts of the military sphere, the features of its communicative needs and the professional activities of the participants of the corresponding discourse practices. As a component of professional communication, it combines such traditional terminological features as systematicity, unambiguity, and stylistic neutrality with a number of specific characteristics determined by the military context, axiological load and extralingual factors of modern world events. A term is defined as a linguistic unit that denotes a professional concept, that is part of a certain terminological system and performs nominative, cognitive and communicative functions [6, p. 204].

English-language military terminology is one of the most dynamic terminological formations due to active neologization, which is caused by technical development, changing formats of combat operations and the needs of international military communication [7, p.476]. Terminology in the military sphere is updated at an accelerated pace: new nominations for the designation of types of weapons, tactics, technologies, information operations and hybrid threats are intensively appearing. This trend determines the need for constant analysis of semantic transformations and the evolution of lexical-conceptual structures. An important feature of military terminology is also its multifunctionality. Military terms in the English language are classified according to their sources of origin, methods of word formation, degree of terminologization, and structural organization [8, p. 66]. No less specific aspect is the stylistic status of military terminology. In traditional terminological theory, a term is considered as a unit without emotional coloring, however, in military communication terms can intentionally acquire emotional expression to influence the addressee, form a psychological background or designate extreme situations [9, p. 56]. Therefore, military terminology sometimes shows expressiveness.

The functioning of military terminology is impossible without taking into account the cognitive aspect. A military term is a verbalized form of special knowledge, and its semantic structure reflects professional experience and ensures accurate reproduction of operational processes [10, p. 15]. The lexical and semantic features of military terminology are closely related to its cognitive function. In media military texts, terms can acquire additional connotations, in particular cognitive or metaphorical, depending on the role of journalistic discourse in the formation of public perceptions of war [11, p. 117].

In military documents and orders, terms perform a regulatory role: they establish instructions, define procedures and regulate the behavior of military personnel. Terminological standardization is one of the key factors in the effectiveness of interstate military communications and interoperability of operations [12, p. 118]. In media discourse, military terms are used to describe events, structure analytical materials and interpret military operations. Terminology in the media can be a tool of influence, since the choice of terms shapes the narrative and assessment of the event by the audience [8; 13]. This confirms the functional multifacetedness of military terminology. Modern media actively use military terminology to frame events, construct the image of the enemy or victim, and form public opinion. Thus, military vocabulary becomes

a means of psychological influence, its semantics is used to enhance the threat, heroize or dramatize situations [14, p. 78].

Mediatization of military terminology leads to two trends: simplification of meaning for the mass reader and clarification in professional texts. In the media discourse, military terminology undergoes semantic and pragmatic transformations, as this type of discourse targets mass audience. Military terms in the media perform not only a nominative, but also an evaluative, persuasive and interpretative function. Modern English-language news articles are characterized by a clear structure, the dominance of factual information, the active use of quotes from officials and military experts, and a combination of neutral presentation with elements of evaluation. A feature of news media discourse is also the variability of term use, which depends on editorial policy, genre of material and target audience. The same military phenomena can be designated by different terms, which affects their assessment and perception by the reader.

The functioning of military terminology in English-language news articles is characterized by a variety of contextual models that are formed under the influence of pragmatic tasks of journalistic discourse, semantic complexity of the terms themselves and expectations of the target audience [15, p. 140]. This determines the features of their contextual functioning, which covers a wide range of communicative models – from neutral-descriptive to ideologically loaded. First of all, it should be noted that the most common model is the descriptive-analytical context, in which the military term is used as an element of a factual message aimed at an accurate representation of combat operations or technical characteristics. For example: “*Ukrainian forces employed HIMARS to target ammunition depots deep behind enemy lines.*” The term HIMARS is not only the name of the weapons system, but also the key to understanding the tactical effectiveness of the operation. Similar examples, typical of the BBC or Reuters, indicate the media’s desire to ensure maximum accuracy and reliability of the description, which corresponds to the idea of high degree of technological detail in English-language texts about the war [11, p. 116]. The “term + definitive explanation” model is also noticeable, which ensures the accessibility of specialized vocabulary to a wide audience. For example: “*A loitering munition, a drone designed to hover before striking its target, was deployed in the attack.*” Such an explanation not only reveals the technical essence of the term, but also creates a basic idea of the tactical capabilities of the weapon for the reader.

Another important model is the interpretative-evaluative context, in which a military term not only designates a phenomenon, but also forms an interpretative framework for its understanding. For example: “*The counteroffensive slowed due to Russia’s deeply layered defensive lines.*” The term *counteroffensive* contains a strategic assessment of the situation, while layered defensive lines gives an idea of the enemy’s level of preparation. Such terminological structures function as cognitive markers, directing the reader to a certain interpretation of events [10, p. 16]. In the political-communicative model, military terms serve as means of explaining or reinforcing political messages that accompany the description of international relations or changes in the geopolitical balance. For example: “*The deployment of F-16 fighters signals a major shift in NATO’s security posture.*” In this case, deployment and security posture function as conceptual elements of political argumentation, designed to form an idea of the strategic intentions of the alliance in the reader. Integration of military vocabulary into political discourse

is one of the key trends of modern media [14, p. 79]. Media texts include intense contexts in which military terms enhance drama and convey an atmosphere of danger. For example: “*The city endured heavy shelling throughout the night.*” The term *heavy shelling* perform not only a nominative, but also an emotional and expressive function [16, p. 58]. Such constructions contribute to the formation of the image of war as a dynamic, dangerous and unpredictable phenomenon.

Chronicle-operational contexts specifically structure the text, presenting events in chronological sequence. For example: “*At dawn, infantry units advanced under artillery cover, after which armored vehicles breached the first defensive line.*” In this fragment, the terms *infantry units*, *artillery cover*, *armored vehicles* and *defensive line* create a logically consistent representation of combat stages, providing the text with structure. It is terminological accuracy that allows the reader to trace the complex logic of military actions [17, p. 119]. The metonymic model implies that which military terms are used to designate institutions, states or political entities. For example: “*The Pentagon announced a new package of military aid.*” In this case, *the Pentagon* acts as a metonym for the American military-political leadership. Such lexical elements perform the function of “semantic folding”, compressing significant amounts of information into one recognizable term [18, p. 19].

The pragmatic potential of military terminology in English-language news articles covers a wide range of functions aimed at shaping the perception of events, structuring information and influencing the emotional and cognitive processes of the reader. Military terms “activate specific interpretative schemes” in the audience, since they combine factuality, emotionality and socio-political associations [16, p. 57]. That is why the pragmatic functions of military terms go far beyond the information component and actively influence the structure of the news message. Military terms perform an informative function, ensuring the accuracy and specificity of the description of events. For example: “*Ukrainian air-defense systems intercepted three cruise missiles over Kyiv.*” The term *cruise missile* does not only specify the type of weapon, but also sets the level of threat. The informative function of terms is to provide the reader with maximum factual accuracy. At the same time, a significant role is played by the clarifying and differential function, which involves a clear distinction between concepts that are of fundamental importance in the analysis of combat operations. For example, the terms *drone*, *loitering munition*, *reconnaissance UAVs*, and *kamikaze drone* denote different types of unmanned systems that have different tactical characteristics. In the news, this is often articulated: “*The attack was conducted not by reconnaissance UAVs but by loitering munitions designed for one-way missions.*” Such differentiation allows the reader to realize not only the fact of the attack, but also its tactical specificity.

The representative-interpretative function is also important, since military terms often form a general conceptual model of the interpretation of events. For example: “*The counteroffensive has encountered strong resistance due to layered defensive systems.*” In this case, the term *counteroffensive* sets the general narrative of the action, while *layered defensive systems* forms the causal logic of interpretation. Such terms serve as cognitive landmarks that direct the recipient’s thinking in a certain semantic direction [10, p. 16].

Military terms simultaneously perform an identification function, forming images of the parties to the conflict, states or

military formations. For example: *elite airborne units*, *high-precision NATO weaponry*, *Russian strategic bomber fleet*. Such lexical constructions do not only convey information, but also construct a certain prestigious or threatening image of the subject. Military terms are used in news articles as means of rhetorical positioning of the parties, which is especially noticeable in international conflicts [17, p. 119].

One of the most important functions in modern information environment is the manipulative-persuasive function, which consists in using military terms to create a targeted emotional impact and shape public opinion. This function is closely related to the emotionally coloured contexts, since it is precisely through the emotional load that terminology acquires persuasive potential. For example, word combinations such as *devastating missile strike*, *brutal assault*, *massive offensive operation* contain a powerful evaluative and emotional component. Military vocabulary can function as a media manipulation tool capable of enhancing the dramatization of events and attracting the audience’s attention [14, p. 80]. It is necessary to highlight the socio-political pragmatic function, which is manifested in the fact that the choice of a term forms the political interpretation of events. For example, the use of the word *liberate* instead of *capture*, or *occupation forces* instead of *military presence*, is politically coloured. The influence of nominative choice on the interpretation of war: naming an event is an act of influence on consciousness, not a neutral fact. This aspect is especially evident in English-language materials about the war in Ukraine, where the terminological opposition *offensive vs counteroffensive* or *strike vs terror attack* is capable of creating different political narratives.

**Conclusions.** The contextual models demonstrate that military terms in media discourse do not exist in a vacuum. They adapt to the genre requirements of the text, guide the reader’s interpretation, clarify the structure of the message and serve as a tool for both informational and political influence. Thus, English-language news discourse turns military terminology into a flexible, multifunctional tool that not only nominates the realities of war, but also forms an idea of its causes, course and consequences. It can be argued that the pragmatic functions of military terms in media discourse are multilayered and complex: they ensure accuracy, structure meanings, model interpretation, form images, influence public sentiment and often act as a means of political and emotional manipulation. That is why military terminology in the news is not only a tool for informing, but also an important component of media rhetoric that shapes the public understanding of war. We see prospects for further research in studying the functioning of military terminology in social networks and conducting a comparative analysis of its use on various English-language media platforms.

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**Мосієнко О. Військова термінологія в англійськомовних новинних статтях: функціональні аспекти**

**Анотація.** У статті досліджено особливості функціонування військової термінології в сучасному англо-

мовному новинному дискурсі в умовах глобалізованого інформаційного простору. Актуальність роботи зумовлена активною роллю англійських медіа у формуванні суспільних уявлень про збройні конфлікти, безпеку та оборонну політику в умовах глобалізованого інформаційного простору. У XXI столітті військова тематика стала одним із центральних сегментів міжнародного новинного дискурсу, що пов'язано з масштабними геополітичними трансформаціями, регіональними конфліктами, розвитком гібридних форм війни та військових операцій. Динамічний розвиток військових технологій, поява нових видів озброєння, цифровізація бойових дій та інтенсифікація інформаційного протистояння сприяють активне оновлення й розширення військової термінологічної системи. У цих умовах особливої ваги набуває дослідження особливостей функціонування військових термінів у новинних текстах, адже саме медіа виступають посередником між професійною військовою мовою та масовою аудиторією. Особливу увагу приділено процесам семантичної трансформації військових термінів у медійному середовищі, їх спрощенню, набуттю додаткових конотацій та адаптації до потреб масової комунікації. Об'єктом дослідження є військова термінологія в англійському медіадискурсі, зокрема в новинних статтях провідних інформаційних ресурсів. Предметом аналізу виступають лінгвістичні, семантичні, прагматичні та стилістичні характеристики військових термінів, а також моделі їх контекстуального використання. Метою роботи є визначення особливостей функціонування військових термінів у сучасних англійських новинних текстах і виявлення закономірностей їх адаптації до різних комунікативних завдань. Розглянуто класифікаційні параметри військової лексики за семантичними групами. Окреслено основні контекстуальні моделі функціонування військових термінів у медіа: описово-аналітичну, дефінітивну, інтерпретаційно-оцінну, політико-комунікативну, емоційно-інтенсивну, хронікально-операційну та метонімічну. Доведено, що військова термінологія в новинному дискурсі виконує не лише номінативну та когнітивну, а й аксіологічну, регулятивну й маніпулятивну функції, впливаючи на формування наративів і громадської думки.

**Ключові слова:** військова термінологія, термін, засоби масової інформації, медіа-дискурс, новинна стаття.

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