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## Medical Terminology in the Legal and Political Discourse of the English Language

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### Abstract

Approaches such as legal linguistics, legal medicine, legal psychology, legal pathology and legal chemistry together with the branch of "legal science" have created in the scientific and judicial circles of European and American countries. Legal linguistic analysis is a process of matching stylistic similarities in different legal documents with each other and then valuing the aspects of similarity based on the distinctions and frequency of examples. He says, of course, such an analysis does not necessarily guarantee the identification of the author of a distorted, nameless, or fake or pseudonymous document. In his opinion, the results of linguistic analysis can play a significant role in determining and proving the author of the document by providing evidence, but it cannot identify other possible authors. acquit those who could have been involved in falsifying the document. The relevance of the research is in the constant interest in the concept of discourse in linguistic science, in identifying the characteristic features of its content. The subject of consideration is "the language in the media format", that is, the language, the features of which are motivated by its functioning in the media environment, in the conditions of "forced mediatization" of all spheres of life and society. The increasing awareness of people in the medical business in connection with the development of the Internet indicates that it is not crucial to have in-depth knowledge of the medical field to understand medical terms in public policy texts. The present paper is focused on the integrated approach to investigation of functioning of medical terms in social and political discourse based on the material of the English media. Based on the analysis of articles, it was concluded that the main features of medical terminology in socio-political texts include the implementation of expressive, evaluative and attractive functions. Moreover, these functions can be combined, complementing each other, to achieve the best effect.

**Key words:** communication, legal linguistics, media, social and political discourse, medical terminology.

### Introduction

Language is diversely imprinted in all spheres of life and activities of the society, with which it is inextricably linked in all its forms, in all its functions and at all stages of its existence. The popularity of social and political discourse is growing every year. This is due to the fact that the mass media covers mostly political events and problems, and, therefore, people's interest in politics and their participation in public and political life are becoming more widespread.

Any political activity involves the implementation of communication, that is why the connection between speech and politics is definitely inseparable. It is noted that there is a special branch of linguistics that emerged at the intersection of linguistics and political science that is known as political linguistics.

Political linguistics is considered one of the branches of linguistic knowledge in general, therefore, issues related to the language of power and the power of language can be studied in linguistics as a whole, and in its political branch.

Thus, we can determine that social and political discourse has a number of unique features that distinguish it from other types of discourse. In political discourse, the interaction between the authorities and the people is carried out through the language, both sides use various linguistic techniques and tools to persuade, disclose their position. A certain effect is achieved directly with the help of lexical means, within the framework of this research we consider the problems of terminology as the most important part of social and political discourse. It is a well-known fact that one of the features of social and political discourse is the use of military and medical vocabulary.

The main reason for the use of medical terms in social and political discourse can be considered the fact that this kind of discourse has the main goal of influence, the conquest of power and authority, the formation of political culture among citizens. In addition, it is characterized by manipulation and linguistic influence.

The constantly changing political situation is of interest to researchers in this direction and gives rise to more and more vivid comparisons of the processes taking place in society with the vital activity of the organism, i.e. representatives of this society. The functional aspect of the study of the lexical composition of socio-political discourse is extremely important, since the use of terms in a figurative sense is one of the main and constant sources of enrichment of the lexical composition of the language. Also, rethought meanings convey and reveal social problems: the moral state of society through a description of physiological deviations, moral health through description of physical health, negative signs - through symptoms of diseases, psychological state - through neurophysiological, describing either the norm or deviation from it [2].

The objective of the study is to identify the features of functioning of medical terms in social and political discourse based on the material of the English media.

## Methods

In order to conduct the study of medical terminology in social and political discourse, the following research methods have been used: the study of scientific literature, Internet resources, linguistic method, theoretical and practical analysis, synthesis of the obtained data.

The articles from the following English press have been analysed: The Enquirer (2018), The Straits Times (2018), Bloomberg (2018), The Liberal (2018), The Richfield Reaper (2018), Geo News (2018), Politico Magazine (2018), Reuters (2019), Time (2018), The Badger Herald (2018), Global Times (2020), The Wall Street Journal (2020), The Postmillennial (2020), The Indian Express (2018), Fx Empire (2020), The Moscow Times (2018), The Cog Blog (2020), Financial Times (2020), Sports Washington (2020), DW (2020), Financial Review (2020), CNN (2020), American Action Forum (2020), News Agencies (2020), Zimeye (2020), The Guardian (2020), Fox News (2020).

## Results and Discussion

Thus, social and political discourse is a set of oral and written genres appropriate in the political and public spheres, as well as the rules of public policy that have traditionally developed from the experience of previous generations.

Like any phenomenon, political discourse has certain features that are clearly reflected in oral and written speech. V.A. Maslova notes that when studying the functioning of language in social and political discourse, two phenomena should be considered. On the one hand, we can talk about such a concept as the language of power. The author argues that this concept is understood as a set of linguistic means, techniques, manners of influence used in communication between the authorities and the people. On the other hand, the power of language is also interesting, i.e. how the chosen linguistic means and techniques affect the consciousness. In the author's understanding, this range of issues should be studied directly within the framework of political linguistics [1].

Medical terminology as the type of special language has its own distinctive features. "Medical terms are very much like individual jigsaw puzzles. They are constructed of small pieces that make each word unique, but the pieces can be used in different combinations in other words as well" [3] First, it is worth noting that medical terms have become widespread in health care, in literature, in colloquial speech and other areas of public life. Second, medical terminology, like the terminology of any other sphere, contains two large layers of terms: general scientific and highly specialized terms. Third, it is also interesting to consider the origin of medical terms. In medical terminology there can be observed two completely different phenomena: a very precisely worked-out, internationally standardized anatomical terminology and a quickly developing clinical terminology of all medical branches, characterised by a certain terminological chaos [4].

Consequently, different ways of forming medical terms can be presented as follows:

1. Medical terminology is based on borrowed Greek and Latin terms, as well as terms artificially created from Greek and Latin terms. It is a generally accepted fact that in all countries of the world, medical professionals use special expressions in Latin in their daily professional practice: *invitro*, *diagnosis*, etc.
2. It is known that mythologisms (terms whose etymology is connected with myths of antiquity) entered the medical terminology in the Renaissance: *Achilles tendon*, *Diogenes syndrome*, etc.
3. Toponymic terms are of particular interest. Toponyms are proper names that give a name to a geographical object. Examples of such terms in English include such combinations as *Far-Eastern fever*, *Ebola virus* (named after the Ebola River, which flows in the Democratic Republic of Congo).
4. Eponymous terms are used to stock up the medical terminology. An eponym is the name of a disease, structure or method, which is determined by the name of the person who first discovered or described it. It is emphasized that eponyms are widespread in medicine, but recently there has been a tendency in medical sources to replace eponymic terms with more descriptive terminological units, for example, the islets of Langerhans in

the medical literature will most likely be called pancreatic islets, Hashimoto's disease – autoimmune thyroiditis, etc. Eponymous terms are important in this process, which is as well reflected in the Russian language (von Willebrand's factor, Nechiporenko's test (urine analysis according to Nechiporenko).

5. English medical terminology is also formed due to semantic innovations, that is, when a new meaning is indicated by a form already in the language, for instance: sandwich method (a multilayer method), radiowave disease, etc.

6. Among the features of medical terminology is the inclusion of a large number of abbreviations in its composition. An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word or phrase, for instance HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

According to the German linguist H. Lee-Jahnke, such abbreviations introduce additional difficulties, since the translation of the abbreviation requires accurate decoding. The translator is forced to refer to the special medical literature in order to understand the decoding of the abbreviation and select an adequate and equivalent translation [5].

Further problems are also introduced by the differences of the alphabets of different languages (DNA, CND).

Medical abbreviations appear extremely fast in modern English, evidenced by abbreviations that are not registered in dictionaries [6].

7. Neologisms play an important role in the medical terminology of the English language. Frequently the novelty of the form is combined with the novelty of the content [7]. Examples include combinations such as hygienic monitoring, hymenoplasty, breast augmentation, etc.

The Canadian Linguist M. Rouleau noted the variability of medical terminology, since in recent years' medicine has been developing especially rapidly, and the movement of scientific progress is striking in its speed. With the advent of new objects, technologies, diseases, as well as means and methods of getting rid of them, the lexical composition is replenished with new units, expanding almost daily [8].

It is also should be noted that there are differences in certain medical classifications. The organization of health systems in different countries has its own specifics. According to the linguist N. Rask, these facts give rise to problems in the translation of medical terminology, for example, in contrast to the digital classification of blood groups adopted in Russia (I, II, III, IV), in European countries, international letter values are used (O, A, B, AB) [9].

## Summary

After analyzing examples in 154 articles, we came to the conclusion that the functioning of medical terminology in social and political discourse has its own specific features and functions:

1. The first feature of the use of medical terminology in the social and political discourse is the expressive function of medical terminology: The article "China's private jet market begins recovery" reveals the topic of the resumption of the popularity of private air travel in China, the medical term "recovery" emphasizes a significant improvement in the situation on the private jet market in China [10]. "Insanity: This small restaurant has now faced 6 vegan protests and more are coming". It is clear from the content that the author is using a medical term "insanity" to emphasize an extremely ridiculous state of affairs [11]. The article "Child slavery survivors fight to heal scars of abuse" is devoted to the problem of rehabilitation of Filipino girls who have been sexually abused [12].

2. The next feature is related to the fact that the use of medical terms is due to the evaluative function. The assessment can be given directly by the author of the article. For example, in an article on Facebook's violations of user privacy practices, the headline vividly reflects the author's assessment of the situation: "Facebook's chronic evasions: the company needs to be straight with its users about exactly what it does" [13]. The medical term "chronic", indicates a negative assessment of this situation by the author of the article.

3. Quite often, medical terminology is used in political texts to draw the attention of readers to an article, to a specific problem covered in the article. Related to this is the attractive function of medical terms. After analyzing a certain number of articles on socio-political issues in which medical terminology is used, we found that out of 154 reviewed articles, in 137 medical terms appeared directly in the headings of the articles. It is worth emphasizing that in this regard, medical terms are often used directly in the headings of articles, however, this function manifests itself in the main text of the article. The article headlined "Letter: For US, fiscal boost was no cure in past recessions" deals with the financial crisis in America [14]. The term "cure" grabs the reader's attention by generating interest in the article. Another example is the following headline: "Glenn Greenwald: Trump's hint of peaceful White House exit negates media's 'false hysteria'" [15]. This article focuses on the political changes in American society which were associated with the end of the presidential period of Donald Trump and the elections, as well as the media reaction to Trump's statements. The catch phrase "false hysteria", which contains a medical term "hysteria", pushes readers' interest and increases the likelihood of reading the article.

Thus, medical terminology in social and political discourse performs the following main functions: expressive, evaluative and attractive. Moreover, these functions can be combined, complementing each other, to achieve the

best effect. However, E.M. Solntsev argues that medical terms do not carry any emotional connotation [16]. One cannot but agree with this when it comes to texts of a purely medical orientation, however, in social and political texts, these terms serve to give a certain effect and are used for a specific purpose.

4. After conducting the research, we came to the conclusion that the internationality of the terms and the general comprehensibility of the denotation allow any reader to get an idea of the hidden meaning of a particular term, for instance: “Ukrainian Foreign Minister P. Klimkin has called “political schizophrenia” the intention of Russian presidential candidate K. Sobchak to conduct election campaigning in Russia-occupied Crimea” [17]. Evidently, the word combination “political schizophrenia” has not undergone any transformations, since both the Russian-speaking reader and the English-speaking reader immediately understands what is meant by this expression, after all, most people have an idea of the direct meaning of the word schizophrenia.

5. In the overwhelming majority of articles, medical terms are used to present negative information, as well as to form a negative attitude towards a particular issue in the reader: “Colombian academic seeks to heal divided nation as president” [18], “Opinion: Victoria needs to remedy chicken fiasco” [19], “Chronic failure at Waikato DHB needs a cure” [20]. Obviously, in these cases, medical terminology is used to present negative information, which is understandable: initially, medical terms are used to denote diseases, therefore, in non-medical texts they carry negative connotation. For example, an article titled “Fake news like cancer, needs surgery: Subramanian Swamy” highlights the serious problem of spreading false news in India, which is reported to negatively affect the reputation of the media [21]. When reviewing the negative news, the author reflected a quote from the leader of the Indian People's Party Subramanian Swami, colored negatively using the medical term “cancer”.

6. Further, we identified one more feature of the functioning of medical terminology in socio-political discourse. We noted that medical terminology is used in articles as part of phraseological combinations, idioms and collocations. You should also pay special attention to the fact that this particular feature has a direct and strong connection with the degree of mastery of medical terms, not only in medical texts, but also in texts of any non-medical content. For example, the article “USD / CAD Forecast: After the CAD collapse, inflation may add insult to injury” analyzes the deteriorating position of the Canadian dollar, and also presents the prospects of this situation for the Canadian economy [22]. Evidently, the idiom “add insult to injury” is used to mean “to aggravate the situation”.

In the text of the article: “While Donald Trump has given out a number of offensive nicknames to others during his time in politics, it appears that the president has gotten a taste of his own medicine, something that has brought nothing but joy to Stephen Colbert” a popular American comedian Stephen Colbert in his show “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” joked about the relationship between the president and the actress of films for adults, coming up with different nicknames for D. Trump [23]. The idiom “get a taste of own medicine”, in which the word “medicine” appears, is used in the sense that someone has the same harmful or unpleasant thing that one has inflicted on others. US President D. Trump, known for his love of nicknames for famous people, suffered from his “own weapon”:

It is worth noting that the border between medical terminology and phraseology is indistinct, since the words related to the medical sphere cease to be purely medical terms. However, we can guess that the greatest degree of development is influenced by medical terminology, which appears precisely in the composition of phraseological units, idioms and collocations.

## Conclusions

Thus, we came to the conclusion that medical terminology in social and political discourse performs a large number of functions, has many features and patterns. Frequently these features are interrelated, but sometimes, as we have noticed, they can be opposed to each other. Most of the features of medical vocabulary in socio-political texts have the main functions of such vocabulary in non-medical texts as expressive, evaluative, attractive. The use of medical terminology is due to the necessity to express hostile facts, to influence the reader in such a way as to form his negative assessment.

The fast-tracked development of the medical business gives reason to note that the use of medical terminology in non-medical texts, not only in texts on socio-political topics, will gain momentum. Because of this, the degree of mastery of medical terms in non-medical texts will inevitably increase. Therefore, we can conclude that medical terminology in non-medical discourse will acquire new features, patterns and functions.

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