



Lexicographical aspect of translating medical vocabulary from English (Russian)-to- Kazakh

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Abstract

Scientific and technological advances, the era of globalization as well as Covid-19 pandemic have brought either issues or possibilities to different new information in medical sphere. As English is considered to be *lingua franca* in most of the countries of the world, then information comes in the English language. In case of Kazakhstani trilingual concept, English is no exception. However, it should be stated that not all people (for instance, medical specialists) master the English language. And even not every specialist in translation/interpreting could be specialized in one particular industry-specific term. Therefore, he/her has to consult with bilingual/multilingual dictionaries. The paper presents the lexicographic fixation of the translational medical terms in the bilingual/multilingual dictionaries of Kazakhstan.

Introduction

A dictionary, as a rule, is compiled for consultation rather than for reading. Since then the entry of any type of the dictionary according to the general theory of lexicography, consists of a headword (lemma), a grammatical description, a term description and a semantic description (Gerd A.S., 1986: 51-54). Terminological bilingual and multilingual dictionaries in the sphere of Kazakhstani education and science, bilingual and multilingual medical dictionaries in particular, are of great importance and the need in compiling them is urgent. There are many reasons for it as we consider. Firstly, new innovations in medicine appeared due to the vast development and the large achievements in medicine. Secondly, international relations and exchange of medical work experience between medical specialists in the intercultural communication demands knowledge of the English language. It should be admitted that not all the medical specialists master English so far. Therefore, bi- and multilingual medical dictionaries come at hand as a translational tool for them and for translators/interpreters too.

Methods & Materials

The review of bi- and multilingual medical dictionaries published in the period from 2000 to 2020 is considered in this article.

During our quantitative research it was found out that in the period from 2000 to 2020, unfortunately, only few bilingual or multilingual medical dictionaries has been published by authors (by linguists and medical specialists). The research shows that firstly, dictionaries are mostly bilingual, secondly, different types of equivalence in translating medical terms from SL into TL are used in the dictionaries. The main problem in the bi- or multilingual dictionaries is the presentation of adequate equivalents of English (Russian) medical terms in Kazakh. This phenomenon resulted in terminological inconsistency in Kazakh translation of medical terms.

Results

Two (2) of the medical bilingual dictionaries are examined in this paper – Ағылшынша – қазақша медициналық сөздік (English-Kazakh Medical Dictionary) by Т. Момынов, А. Rakhishev, G. Akzhigitov [Момынов, Rakhishev, Akzhigitov, 2003] and “Медицина лексикасының ұялы әдіспен жасалған сөздігі” (Medical Dictionary Presented with the Group of Words with the Same Root) by К. Аяпбергенова [Ayapbergenova, 2006]. It is Kazakh-Russian dictionary.

The peculiarity of the structure of the 1st dictionary is that terms are in italics. Derivatives of the words with all possible word-combinations are placed in an alphabetic way. We can say that this makes it easier for users to find the needed word quickly. Moreover, the variants of the Kazakh translation terms are numerated in Arabic. The dictionary contains approximately 60 000 theoretical, clinical and technical medical terms including terms of molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics.

The author of the 2nd dictionary presented synonyms of a term in the SL and their equivalents in the TL.

Hence, the overview of the medical dictionaries illustrates that dictionaries are mostly bi- and trilingual. There are synonymous terms in Kazakh translations. It is necessary to note that the problem of synonymy in Kazakh medical terminology which is to be settled.

Relevance and novelty of the research

Obviously, a large number of new medical terms come into use. Medical professionals of the country in order to manage working with new innovations have to learn foreign language. It is known that most of the terms are in English. Therefore, we tried to determine the translations of the medical terms in the multilingual dictionaries and to make contributions in upgrading the lexicographic aspect of medical terms.

Conclusions

The 2 medical dictionaries has similarities in common:

1) Similar structure; 2) variation and synonymy in some terms of Kazakh translations. That is synonymic equivalence of TL to SL.

As far as the content of the dictionaries are concerned, it must be confessed that constant changes in the language demand an update of a dictionary entry in accordance with new medical terms appearing in the field.

The present paper lays the ground for some future research:

- collaboration work of linguists and medical specialist in eliminating medical terms inconsistency;
- creating an electronic terminology database of Kazakh medical terms in the country.

References

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