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PRAGMATIC ASPECT OF REPRODUCING ENGLISH MILITARY VOCABULARY IN UKRAINIAN

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SUMMARY

The article focuses on the results of the translation analysis of English-language lexical units of the military sphere, selected by the method of continuous sampling from different types of texts, and the study of the pragmatic aspect of their translation into Ukrainian. It is emphasized that the problem of the functioning military vocabulary in texts of various genres is becoming increasingly relevant with the growing role of functional and anthropocentric approaches to the study of linguistic phenomena. It is stated that

research on military vocabulary is increasingly characterized by interdisciplinary (linguocultural, sociolinguistic, semiotic directions, etc.), which is associated with the modern trend towards the interaction of different fields of knowledge and the search for new ways of deeper understanding linguistic phenomena. Military vocabulary is viewed as a specific layer of lexical units that serve a special branch of human activity – military affairs, covering military-applied terminology and emotionally colored lexical units. It is characterized by clarity, brevity and functions to serve the sphere of military activity, being actualized in intraprofessional genres (military journalism, military-scientific communication, military-didactic communication and documents of a regulatory nature) and performing a nominative, informative, representative, manipulative and emotionally-expressive function. The study showed that the reproduction of English-language military vocabulary in Ukrainian is a complex multi-level process, which involves not only the formal recoding of lexical units, but also taking into account their pragmatic potential. It is outlined that the pragmatic aspect of the translation of the studied vocabulary consists in ensuring adequate perception, accuracy of content transfer, compliance with communicative intentions and functional features of the text. The choice of translation strategy is determined by such pragmatic factors as: the context of use of the lexical unit, the genre of the text, the level of specialized knowledge of the recipient and the communicative goal.

Key words: *military vocabulary, specialized language of the military branch, morphological method of word formation, syntactic method of word formation, military translation, translation transformations, pragmatic aspect of translation.*

Introduction. In the current conditions of military-political conflicts and reforms against the background of global instability caused by various military interventions in the world, which are being tried to be regulated by coalitions of Western states led by the USA, interest in the armed forces of the USA and their allies, primarily the United Kingdom, is growing. In this regard, the problem of studying the development and translation of the English-language military vocabulary of the specialized language of the military sphere is relevant. Interest in this problem is also caused by the fact that military realities penetrate into everyday life and they are present in the communication not only of the military, but also of ordinary citizens, permeating the language of many spheres of social life and reflecting urgent issues related to defense activities.

The above ensures the undeniable **relevance of the analyzed problem**, which is caused by the rapid militarization of society

against the background of military-political reforms caused by the aggravation of armed confrontations on a global scale, which serves as an impetus for the emergence of English-language lexical innovations and the widespread use of lexical units. This, in turn, requires special attention when translating, and therefore is an interesting material for scientific research. At the same time, the problem of the functioning of military vocabulary in texts of various genres is becoming increasingly relevant with the growing role of functional and anthropocentric approaches to the study of linguistic phenomena.

Today, military vocabulary ceases to function only in highly specialized contexts; it is present in the everyday use of politicians, journalists, diplomats, and ordinary people thanks to the globalized information space, in which one of the main roles in disseminating information belongs to the mass media around the world (Fedorenko, Tsepka, Maltseva 2021: 132). It is considered in the language of works of fiction, in the language of journalism, in advertising texts, and in political discourse. All this, in turn, requires more and more linguistic research into the modern technical language of the military sphere.

The article aims to highlight the results of the translation analysis of English-language lexical units of the military sphere, selected by the method of continuous sampling from different types of texts, and the study of the pragmatic aspect of their translation into Ukrainian.

The research material was a corpus of English-language military vocabulary, which includes 410 lexical units, selected by continuous sampling from lexicographic sources, Internet resources, Internet magazines, and popular science literature.

To achieve the set goal, **the following research methods were exploited:** *general scientific methods* (induction, deduction, analysis and synthesis – to clarify the theoretical foundations and form the conclusions of the study) and *special linguistic methods* (the method of distributive analysis – for text segmentation and identification of lexical units; the method of analysis of dictionary definitions – to determine the primary meaning of linguistic units of the military sphere; the method of structural

and word-formation analysis – to identify the methods and mechanisms of formation of the vocabulary of the military sphere; the method of translation analysis – for the analysis of the original texts and their translations and a detailed study of linguistic issues related to the reproduction of English-language military vocabulary; the method of quantitative analysis – to determine the frequency (in %) of use of translation transformations for each type of lexical units under study).

Results and discussion. Today's research on military vocabulary is increasingly characterized by interdisciplinary (linguocultural, sociolinguistic, semiotic directions, etc.), which is associated with the modern trend towards the interaction of different fields of knowledge and the search for new ways of understanding and studying linguistic phenomena.

Military vocabulary is viewed as a specific layer of lexical units that serve a special branch of human activity – military affairs, covering military-applied terminology and emotionally colored lexical units. Military lexical items are characterized by clarity, brevity and functions to serve the sphere of military activity, being actualized in intraprofessional genres (military journalism, military-scientific communication, military-didactic communication and documents of a regulatory nature) and performing a nominative, informative, representative, manipulative and emotionally-expressive function (Vasylenko 2009; Fedorenko, Bernadina 2021). In general, military vocabulary reflects the influence of extralingual and linguistic factors that must be taken into account when translating (Bailo 2013).

Specialized military language serves various aspects of the military industry, is standardized and functions to ensure the military security of a particular state. This area is interconnected with other areas, such as political, scientific and technical, socio-cultural areas (Fedorenko, Bernadina 2021). Specialized military language has repeatedly been the subject of research by Ukrainian and foreign linguists who studied issues related to the ways, methods of its creation, and linguistic and extralingual aspects of its functioning (I. Matiushyn, T. Mykhailenko, V. Kondrashov, L. Tkachova, V. Shevchuk, N. Fomina, etc.), the definition of military slang and its

translation (G. Sudzylovsky, P. Dixon, etc.), cognitive factors of the functioning of military vocabulary (I. Andrusiak, G. Buchyna, etc.), and the multifaceted issues of military translation (V. Balabin, O. Kovtun, L. Neliubin, etc.).

Ukrainian scholar V. Balabin defines military translation as: a special type of language mediation carried out in the armed forces in order to implement the tasks of linguistic support for the troops; “a special type of intercultural bilateral and bilingual communication, which has as its object texts on military topics and is carried out in normal and extreme conditions of military service in the military-political, military-technical and military-special spheres of activity of the armed forces through the language mediation of a military translator” (Balabin 2018: 12).

Due to its specific communicative and functional orientation, the specialized language of the military sphere operates within three functional styles of language – official-business, journalistic and scientific (Fedorenko, Bernadina 2021). The preference of one of these styles changes depending on the topic of communication. In general, as L. Turovska claims, the development of specialized military language is influenced by such extralinguistic factors as socio-economic, socio-communicative (aesthetic, intellectual) and historical-political (Turovska 2007: 35). Another Ukrainian philologist I. Lytovchenko notes that these extralinguistic factors are: the level of development of science and technology in the language environment, socio-political conditions in the linguistic society, the terminological policy of the state, the functional status of the state language and the international status of the national language (Lytovchenko 2014: 77–78).

As for the translation aspect, a translator working with military documents must have deep knowledge of linguistic and cultural nature, since the approach to military affairs of English-speaking countries has significant differences, which is manifested both in the structure of military lexical units of documents in which they are found, and in the style of presentation of the material. In addition, military translation reflects in the most concentrated form the characteristic features and properties of all subspecies of translation in various spheres of professional communication:

scientific and technical, legal, medical, pedagogical, etc., but, in addition, journalistic and even artistic translation (Fedorenko, Bernadina 2021: 258).

Comparative translation analysis of English-language lexical items of the military sphere and their Ukrainian translation units led to the consideration of translation transformations. In a narrow sense, translation transformation is a transformation, modification of form, or content and form, in particular, in order to preserve the correspondence of the communicative impact on the addressees of the original and the translated text (Selivanova 2012). Such transformations are carried out both on the basis of systemic differences between the two languages and are systemic transformations, and due to the difference in cultures, ontologies of the two peoples, and the interpretation programs of the readers of the original and the translation. Such a definition and justification of translation transformations gives

Furthermore, translation transformations can be considered interlingual transformations, restructuring of the source text or replacing its elements in order to achieve translation adequacy and equivalence. The main characteristic features of translation transformations are their interlingual nature and focus on achieving translation adequacy.

As noted in the works of Ukrainian linguists, lexical units formed by morphological means are considered as modifications at the word-formation level, since they arise as a result of formal and semantic changes of basic lexemes (Kochergan 2006; Selivanova 2010). This explains the need for adequate rendering of English-language lexemes of the military sphere, taking into account the peculiarities of the structure and forms of a particular lexeme.

It has been found out that English-language military lexemes formed by syntactic method make up 34% of the total amount of the material under study. It has been established that the noun model $N + N$, being dominant in the process of formation of complex military lexical units (e.g., *microwave weapon* – *мікрохвильова зброя*, that may vary as follows $(N + N) + N = N$ (*bunker-buster bomb* – *протибункерна авіабомба*), $N + (N + N) = N$ (*stealth fighter jet* – *реактивний винищувач із низьким рівнем демаскувальних ознак*), $N + \text{Ner} = N$ (*al-Qaeda*

fighter – *боєць аль-Каїди*), N's + N = N (*Maggie's drawers* – червоний прапорець на позначення невдалого тренувального пострілу). The last of the listed types is the most characteristic for the formation of military slang. The first element of the binomial can be represented by a noun denoting a living being (*eagles' nest* – аеродром), inanimate object (*hell's acres* – гаряча точка) (Vasylenko 2008: 43).

Also, among military complex two-component lexemes, lexical units formed according to the Adj + N = N model are common; however, the number of adjectives that participate in this method of word formation is limited. These are mostly monosyllabic adjectives *cold*, *fast*, *heavy*, *hot*, *light*, *slow* (*hot line* – прямий зв'язок, *heavy arty* – важка артилерія) etc. (Vasylenko 2008: 44). In turn, multicomponent lexical formations, in turn, are more characteristic of military terminology with an indication of the specification of specialization (*intermediate range ballistic missile* – балістична ракета проміжної дальності) (Vasylenko 2008: 45).

The translation of sound-letter abbreviations and acronyms is associated with significant difficulties. These difficulties are also due to the fact that almost all parts of speech are subject to abbreviation. Both single-component and multi-component terms can be abbreviated. Individual abbreviations have dozens of registered meanings. Additionally, there are unregistered and unofficial meanings of these abbreviations. The main method of reproducing abbreviations is translation by dictionary equivalent. However, no dictionary can contain all the abbreviations that occur in materials of this content. This necessitates the mastery of the basic methods and techniques of translating abbreviations. First of all, it is necessary to carefully study the context, from which one should try to determine the general meaning of the abbreviation. Sometimes its first use in the text may be accompanied by decoding. It is also necessary to conduct a thorough analysis of the structure of the abbreviation and decipher its components (Vasylenko 2009: 81). For instance: *J DAM* (*Joint Direct Attack Munition* – бомби зі звичайною системою наведення); *FEBA* (*Forward Edge of the Battle Area* – лінія вогню); *MO UT* (*Military operations in urban terrain* – військові операції у межах міста).

It should be noted that there are certain semantic regularities of combining the bases of nouns as components of a compound word. The problem of establishing such regularities is that a compound word has greater informativeness than a simple one. At the same time, the total meaning of a compound word is not the sum of the meanings of its components, but is equal to the logical product of the features that the semantic structure of the constituent components contains. Among the methods of translating morphologically formed lexemes of the military sphere, explication dominates with an indicator of 32% of the volume of all explicated units: *overwatch* – *військовий підрозділ, який здійснює прикриття дій інших підрозділів* → *підрозділ вогневого прикриття*; *fireteam* – *найменше тактичне військове формування, що входить до складу відділення (мала бойова група)*; *airstrike* – *напад із використанням літальних апаратів (удар із повітря)*; *countermeasure* – *дії, спрямовані на нейтралізацію загрози (заходи протидії)*; *stronghold* – *укріплена позиція, що має оборонне значення (укріплений опорний пункт)*; *commandership* – *здатність керувати військовими підрозділами (здатність до командування військами)*; *warlordism* – *політико-військова система влади місцевих воєначальників (панування воєначальників)*; *minefield* – *територія, замінована для оборони або стримування противника (замінована ділянка / мінне поле)*. The use of the explication technique is due to the lack of direct Ukrainian equivalents to complex derived units denoting specialized concepts of military activity. Explication allows preserving not only semantic but also pragmatic equivalence, since the translator adapts the term to the linguistic and communicative norms of the Ukrainian military terminological system. This method of translation contributes to increasing the informative richness of the text, reduces the risk of ambiguity and ensures the adequacy of the recipient's perception of specialized concepts.

The second most common method is to provide a dictionary equivalent (27%): *demobbed* – *демобілізований*; *camouflaged* – *замаскований (покритий камуфляжем для зниження помітності на місцевості)*; *armored vehicle* – *броньована машина*; *aircraft carrier* – *авіаносець*; *mine detector* – *мінодетектор / пристрій для виявлення мін*. The method of calque in the case

of morphologically formed lexemes accounts for 13% of the total volume of units translated using this method: *counteroffensive* – контрнаступ. The calque method in the translation of military terminology is used in cases where the structure of the English term is transparent and allows preserving semantic and morphological correspondence in the target language. This method ensures brevity and accuracy of the translation, contributes to the standardization of terminology, and facilitates its integration into the Ukrainian military terminological system. In turn, 9% of demetaphorized units are morphologically formed lexemes: *debriefing* – підбиття підсумків після виконання операції.

The logical development of the concept (i.e. through expansion or narrowing of meaning, semantic concretization or generalization of the basic content) worked with a rate of 11%: *fortification* – укріплення (спорудження оборонних позицій); *breakthrough* – прорив оборони противника; *deployment* – розгортання військ (передислокація підрозділів). In these cases, semantic adaptation is observed – the term loses a certain part of its formal structure, but retains the key conceptual core. For example, *deployment* in the literal meaning of “placement” is specified as “deployment of troops”, and breakthrough in the translation “breakthrough of the enemy’s defense” clarifies the situational meaning. This method of translation is aimed at achieving accuracy and naturalness of the use of the term in the context of Ukrainian military discourse, ensuring the adequacy of pragmatic interpretation.

Another method of translating morphologically formed English military terms is transcoding, which includes transliteration and transcription. The share of this method in the overall structure of translation solutions is 8%. Its use is due to the desire to preserve the external form of the term and ensure the recognition of the foreign-language concept in professional discourse. The group of terms transmitted by transcoding includes such units as: *drone* – дрон, *radar* – радар, *monitor* – монітор, *launcher* – ланчер, *sniper* – снайпер. In most cases, transcribed lexemes are gradually integrated into the Ukrainian military terminological system, acquiring the characteristics of specific units. This technique is especially appropriate for

the names of technical means, types of weapons or concepts that do not have an exact national equivalent. From a pragmatic point of view, transcoding contributes to the unification of military terminology, facilitates communication in international contexts and ensures clarity for specialists who operate with English-language sources.

As far as the above indicators are concerned, we can conclude that explication is the most recurrent method of translating the studied lexical units formed by the morphological method. Since it provides a clear and detailed explanation for abbreviations and acronyms, which represent the lion's share of the material under consideration. Dictionary equivalents also make up a significant part of the total volume, which proves the clearly expressed terminological nature of military vocabulary. The calque method and logical development of the concept are at almost the same level for these lexemes. An interesting and, moreover, fair fact is the complete absence of remetaphorized units. The latter, although in small quantities, were found in the corpus of the studied lexemes formed by the lexical and semantic method.

Considering the identified lexical units of the military sphere, formed by the lexical and semantic method, they constitute 41% of the studied material and reflect a number of stylistic techniques designed to ensure the emotionality and expressiveness of military vocabulary. The translation of these units causes significant difficulties, as it requires a creative approach and mastery of the Ukrainian language. Thus, the explication of units formed by the lexical and semantic method is 34%, which is an advanced indicator for the adoption of descriptive translation, compared to other types of lexemes: *double-digit midget* – військово-службовці, яким залишилося менше 100 днів до закінчення контракту; *Taco* – оцінка «незадовільно» за бойові тренування військовослужбовців ВПС США. The tracing technique accounts for 11% of the total volume of units translated using this technique: *eye in the sky* – «око в небі» (літак-розвідник або безпілотник, що здійснює спостереження з повітря); *tagged* – помічений (внесений до списку цілей або осіб, що підлягають контролю). The dictionary equivalents of these

tokens account for 21% and thus have a quantitative advantage over other types of tokens: *bunker* – укриття, бліндаж.

The method of demetaphorization with an indicator of 17% relative to other translation techniques is a technique aimed specifically at the transmission of metaphorical lexemes formed in a lexical-semantic way: *bang-bang* – *вогнепальна зброя*; *dope on a rope* – *десантники*; *over the hill* – *дезертир*. 2% of units translated through remetaphorization are semantic lexemes: *back on the block* – *згадала баба, як дівкою була* (зустрічатися з друзями, які були ще до вступу на військову службу). Units translated by the logical development tool account for 11%: *a good piece of gear* – *професіонал*; *kill box* – *заборонена зона* (тактика ведення бою), and for transcoding – 4%: *Jawa* – *Джава* (військовослужбовець, дислокований у пустельному регіоні).

Consequently, among the techniques for translating lexical units of the military sphere formed in a lexical and semantic way, explication, dictionary equivalents, and demetaphorization are recurrent, which is explained by the nature of these lexical units. Explication is often employed to convey complex or culturally specific concepts that lack direct equivalents in the target language, ensuring that the functional and pragmatic aspects of the lexical unit are preserved. Dictionary equivalents, on the other hand, provide concise, standardized renderings that facilitate clarity and consistency across texts. Demetaphorization allows translators to neutralize figurative or metaphorical elements inherent in some military terms, thereby creating semantically precise and contextually appropriate renderings in the target language.

Overall, the choice of translation strategy is closely linked to the semantic density, structural complexity, and communicative function of the lexical unit, highlighting the importance of a pragmatically informed approach in the translation of specialized military vocabulary. Such a strategy not only ensures lexical accuracy but also maintains comprehensibility and usability for the target audience, which is critical in military communication.

Conclusions. Therefore, it should be noted that translation, as a complex multi-faceted phenomenon, does not occur without losses, both at the lexical and semantic level and in the functional aspect, which is a consequence of the first.

Through the translation analysis of English-language lexical units of the military sphere, formed by morphological and lexical and semantic methods, certain functional changes were revealed. First of all, the translation of semantic and phraseological units by explication and demetaphorization caused the loss of the emotionality and expressiveness characteristic of them in the language of translation by lexical units. A similar situation is observed in the case of the use of calque and remetaphorization, in which, due to linguistic and cultural differences, it is necessary to provide a translation explanation in brackets, which spoils the impression and effect of a particular military joke, swear word, etc. Morphological lexical units, on the contrary, have in a certain way acquired a stylistic coloring, and at the same time an emotional and expressive load due to the emotionality of the Ukrainian language, invested in the technique of logical development of the concept.

Since translation is a creative process, and translation transformations are aimed not only at analyzing the relationship between the units of the original and target languages, but also at achieving translation equivalence, translators often resort to excessive simplification or complication in an attempt to convey the essence of concepts. In such cases, a process occurs in which terms and substandard vocabulary go beyond their functions and acquire new ones, depending on how creatively the translator approached the problem of transmitting the corresponding lexical material.

Observation of the actual material and transformational analysis prove the fact that the translators vary the functional characteristics of the vocabulary with which they work, due to the translation methods exploited in order to transmit individual lexemes as accurately as possible. Translation transformations generally provide a direct impact on the functional characteristics of the lexical material. The correct and advantageous placement of accents depends on the translator and the translation plan, taking into account the one hundred percent achievement of the pragmatic effect.

Thus, the study found that the reproduction of English-language military vocabulary in Ukrainian is

a complex multi-level process that involves not only the formal recoding of lexical units, but also taking into account their pragmatic potential. The pragmatic aspect of the translation of the vocabulary under study is to ensure adequate perception, accuracy of content transfer, compliance with communicative intentions and functional features of the text. The choice of translation strategy is determined by pragmatic factors – in particular, the context of use of the lexical unit, the genre of the text, the level of specialized knowledge of the recipient and the communicative purpose. Successful translation requires a balance between terminological accuracy and clarity for the target audience.

We see the scope for further research in the study of linguocognitive aspects of English-language military terminology.

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ПРАГМАТИЧНИЙ АСПЕКТ ВІДТВОРЕННЯ АНГЛОМОВНОЇ ЛЕКСИКИ ВІЙСЬКОВОЇ ГАЛУЗІ УКРАЇНСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ

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АНОТАЦІЯ

У статті зосереджено увагу на результатах перекладацького аналізу англomовних лексичних одиниць військової сфери, відібраних методом суцільної вибірки з різних типів текстів, та дослідженні прагматичного аспекту їх відтворення українською мовою. Наголошено, що проблема функціонування військової лексики в текстах різних жанрів стає дедалі актуальнішою зі зростанням ролі функціонального й антропоцентричного підходів до вивчення лінгвістичних явищ. Зазначено, що дослідження військової лексики дедалі більше характеризуються міждисциплінарністю (лінгвокультурний, соціолінгвістичний, семіотичний напрями тощо), зумовленою сучасною тенденцією до взаємодії різних галузей знань і пошуку нових шляхів глибшого розуміння мовних явищ. Військова лексика розглядається як специфічний прошарок лексичних одиниць, що обслуговують особливу галузь людської діяльності — військову справу, охоплюючи військово-ужиткову термінологію та емоційно забарвлені лексичні одиниці. Вона характеризується чіткістю, стислістю та функціями обслуговування сфери військової діяльності, актуалізуючись у внутрішніх професійних жанрах (військова журналістика, військово-наукова комунікація, військово-дидактична комунікація та документи нормативного характеру) і виконуючи номінативну, інформативну, репрезентативну, маніпулятивну та емоційно-експресивну функції. Дослідження засвідчило, що відтворення англomовної військової лексики українською мовою є складним багаторівневим процесом, який передбачає не лише формальне перекодування лексичних одиниць, а й урахування їхнього прагматичного потенціалу. Окреслено, що прагматичний аспект перекладу досліджуваної лексики полягає у забезпеченні адекватного сприйняття, точності передачі змісту, відповідності комунікативним намірам та функційним особливостям тексту. Вибір стратегії перекладу визначається такими прагматичними факторами, як: контекст використання лексичної одиниці, жанр тексту, рівень спеціалізованих знань реципієнта та комунікативна мета.

Ключові слова: військова лексика, фахова мова військової галузі, морфологічний спосіб словотвору, синтаксичний спосіб словотвору, військовий переклад, перекладацькі трансформації, прагматичний аспект перекладу.

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