Translation Specifics and Equivalence in Professional English Terms

Professional Ingliz Tilidagi Tarjima Xususiyatlari Va Ekvivalentligi

Специфика Перевода И Эквивалентность В Профессиональном Английском Языке

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ABSTRACT. This study aims to examine the nuances of translating English terms in professional texts. It focuses on distinguishing how single-component and multi-component terms function differently. Findings indicate that an abundance of multi-component terms reflects an underdeveloped terminology system, resulting in relative translation equivalence, contrasting with the clearer translation equivalence found in single-component terms. Transformational translation methods are shown to broaden the semantic scope of terms in the target language.

KEY WORDS: terminological system, one-component term, professionally oriented text, multicomponent term, translation methods, relative equivalence, professional term.

ANNOTATSIYA. Ushbu tadqiqot professional matnlarda ingliz atamalarini tarjima qilishning nuanslarini o'rganishga qaratilgan. Unda asosiy e'tibor bir komponentli va ko'p komponentli atamalarning bir-biridan qanday farq qilishini farqlashga qaratilgan. Topilmalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, ko'p komponentli atamalarning ko'pligi rivojlanmagan terminologiya tizimini aks ettiradi, natijada nisbiy tarjima ekvivalenti paydo bo'ladi, bu bir komponentli atamalarda aniqroq tarjima ekvivalentiga qarama-qarshi bo'ladi. Transformatsion tarjima usullari maqsad tildagi atamalarning semantik doirasini kengaytirish uchun ko'rsatilgan.

KALIT SO'ZLAR: terminologik tizim, bir komponentli atama, kasbiy yo'naltirilgan matn, ko'p komponentli atama, tarjima usullari, kasbiy atama, nisbiy ekvivalentlik

АННОТАЦИЯ. Целью данного исследования является рассмотрение нюансов перевода английских терминов в профессиональных текстах. Основное внимание уделяется различению того, как однокомпонентные и многокомпонентные термины функционируют по-разному. Результаты показывают, что обилие многокомпонентных терминов отражает недостаточно развитую терминологическую систему, что приводит к относительной переводческой эквивалентности, контрастирующей с более четкой переводческой эквивалентностью, обнаруженной в однокомпонентных терминах. Показано, что трансформационные методы перевода расширяют смысловой диапазон терминов целевого языка.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: терминологическая система, однокомпонентный термин, профессионально ориентированный текст, многокомпонентный термин, способы перевода, относительная эквивалентность, профессиональный термин.
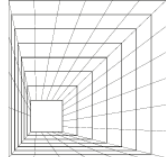
INTRODUCTION. Globalization, along with advancements in communication technologies and social media, has significantly boosted international interactions, particularly in professional contexts, thereby heightening the importance of effective communication across diverse cultural backgrounds [14]. Furthermore, the demand for experts who can engage in professional communication within an intercultural framework and possess translation skills is rising in international business. This proficiency enables the utilization of international knowledge found in foreign-language professional literature [7]. Consequently, ensuring the accurate translation of professional texts is becoming increasingly important.

METHODOLOGY. This issue has been examined in numerous studies by both domestic and international scholars (S. M. Azizova, I. V. Zaitseva, G. S. Kochmina, M. V. Mazo, N. S. Sakharova, G. Crosling, I. Ward, among others). A significant focus is placed on analyzing key factors, such as the selection of content that considers professional specifics and the unique characteristics of specialized language [1; 11]. For instance, it is suggested that the linguistic features of professionally oriented texts, such as professional terminology, vary based on the type of professional activity. This variation necessitates the improvement or development of new methods for information transmission. According to researchers, this highlights the specificity of linguistic means as a crucial aspect of professional communication at the text level [6; 8].

The aim of this work is to identify the unique aspects of how terms function and are translated as essential elements of professional texts. We believe that the specific challenges associated with translating both single-component and multi-component terms within the terminology system of specialized sublanguages are not yet fully explored.

Therefore, the objectives of this study are to pinpoint the primary characteristics of terms, ascertain the quantitative and component composition of the terminological content in the professional texts under examination, and analyze the main methods used for translating terms of various component structures.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION. The ambiguity in defining the concept of a "term" primarily arises from the varying perspectives on its characteristics. In this work, we will adhere to the following definition: "A term is a lexical unit of language, used for special purposes, denoting a general—concrete or abstract—concept within a specific field of knowledge or activity" [2, p. 22].

According to scholars such as V. G. Gak and Z. I. Komarova, the main features of terms include a clear and precise definition, monosemy within the terminological field, brevity, consistency, and emotional and stylistic neutrality. These properties of terms (including terminated vocabulary) are essential within the terminological system of a specialty sublanguage and aid translators in achieving a high degree of equivalence in professional text translation.

Thus, a term's unambiguity lies in its clearly defined content within a single terminological system and the exclusion of synonymous lexical equivalents. Consequently, a term's meaning must be clear and unique, given that the semantic field of a specialized concept typically has precise boundaries. The brevity of a term necessitates concentrated nominativity. Additionally, any term must be systematic, indicating its belonging to the terminology of a specific field of activity. It is also important to highlight the term's stylistic neutrality; its meaning must be strictly conceptual, aiming to inform and express the concept [3; 5; 8; 10; 12].
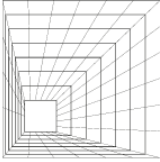
To reiterate, terms are vital tools in professional activities as they encapsulate the theory and methodology of any profession [12].

For accurate translation of professional texts, it is essential to translate terms precisely, as they are the most significant linguistic units. The primary methods for translating terms include untranslated borrowing, linear translation (calque), and various forms of transformational translation, such as analogue translation (selecting a lexical equivalent or functional analogue), descriptive translation, rearrangement, and addition [3].

Transcription involves transferring an English term by replicating its phonetic appearance. Transliteration reproduces a term at the graphemic level.

Calque, or word-for-word translation, involves translating the elements of a term while strictly maintaining their order and the phrase's structure.

The analogue method involves selecting a functional equivalent from the translating language's terminology system, preserving the entire term's internal semantics.

Descriptive translation is used for non-equivalent English terms, conveying the term's meaning through description and explanation, potentially using other terms.

Finally, transformation underlies most translation techniques, involving changes to the formal (lexical or grammatical) or semantic components of the source language unit while preserving the intended content [4; 9; 10].

To identify the features of the functioning and translation of English terms in professionally oriented texts, we conducted a translation and detailed analysis of two economic texts: "Explaining Patterns of Corruption in the Russian Regions" and "Food Safety Investment in the Meat and Poultry Industries: Survey Results" (translated by the authors of this article, M.K. and A.F.) [13; 15].

Statistical analysis of these texts revealed that terms constitute 3% of the total lexical composition. These terms include both single-word lexical units (single-component terms) and phrases (multi-component terms) [Ibidem]. Table 1 presents the frequency of term usage in these texts, with a sample of 99 terms out of 1700 words.

The data obtained allowed us to identify the most frequently used terms, such as "corruption," "level of corruption," "coherence of the state," "food safety," "food safety innovation," "sanitation," and "investment." These terms account for 7% of the total usage. Therefore, we can conclude that these terms are key to the texts. The remaining terms, due to their infrequent use, can be considered auxiliary.

In the food security text, the frequency of single-component terms is higher than that of multi-component terms [15]. This suggests the conciseness and well-developed terminology system of the sublanguage in this professional field.

The following methods were employed to translate single-component terms:
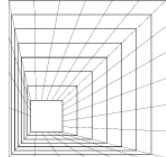
1.   Calque:
appropriation – ассигнование;
market – рынок.
2.   Borrowing:
investment – инвестиции;
corruption – коррупция;
centralization – централизация.
3.   Descriptive translation:
sanitation – санитарные условия;
dehiding – оборудование для съемки шкуры.
From this, we can infer that the terminological system in this professional field is well-developed and forms a cohesive system, leading to an expansion of the semantic field in which terms function.

It is notable that in the text from the field of national economics ("Explaining Patterns of Corruption in the Russian Regions"), multi-component terms are used more frequently than single-component ones [13]. The usage of single-component terms in this text is three times lower. Additionally, multi-component terms tend to have a larger number of components. This data suggests that the terminological system in this field is less developed.

It should be noted that a multi-component term refers to a stable terminological combination consisting of more than one component [5]. Multi-component terms are complex structural and semantic formations. The frequency of specific structural models significantly impacts the composition of terms compared to other term formation factors. As the number of components in multi-component terms increases, the variety of their structural models also increases. Additionally, an increase in the number of components in multi-component terms leads to a decrease in their overall occurrence within a professional text [3].

When translating multi-component terms of a professionally oriented text, the following translation methods were used:
1. Calque:
− anti-corruption policy – антикоррупционная политика;
− divergent agricultural systems – дивергентные сельскохозяйственные системы;
− GRP (gross regional product) – ВРП (валовой региональный продукт).
2. Transformational translation:
a) analog translation:
− fractured state – нецентрализованное государство;
− coherent state – централизованное государство;
б) rearrangement:
− level of media freedom – уровень свободы СМИ;
− business government relations – отношения бизнеса и государства;
− steam vacuum units – вакуумные паровые агрегаты;
− steam carcass pasteurizer – паровой пастеризатор тушек;
в) addition:
− voter turnout – явка избирателей на выборах;
− mutual hostages – взаимные залоговые обязательства;
− food safety innovation – инновации в сфере продовольственной безопасности.
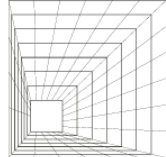
Clearly, when there are no direct lexical equivalents in the Russian language, semantic clarification techniques are employed. This often involves introducing additional components such as adjectives or participles, selecting an analogue from the target language's terminology system, or completely replacing the term when equivalents are unavailable. Moreover, the frequency of both single-component and multi-component terms depends on how extensively and maturely the field of activity is studied and developed.

CONCLUSION. Therefore, we can infer the following conclusions: the prevalence of multi-component terms suggests that the terminological system is actively expanding within the communicative sphere where it operates. It is noteworthy that as a field of professional activity evolves, its sublanguage's terminological system becomes enriched with single-component terms as the semantic nuances of professional concepts become clearer.

Furthermore, the analysis highlighted a preference for transformational methods in translation and the relative equivalence in translating certain multi-component terms. This was evidenced by differences in lexical and grammatical structures between English and Russian terms, the use of terminology analogues during translation, and variations in the number of components. This complexity arises from the challenge of conveying the semantic meaning of each term element with a single corresponding component in translation.

As all professional fields continue to evolve, a diverse array of terms emerges in contemporary professional literature, necessitating specific translation techniques. Regardless of the method chosen to translate these terms and achieve maximum equivalence, it must align seamlessly with the text's content, as terms bear the primary weight of professionally oriented texts.

These findings facilitate the systematic categorization of existing and newly emerging multi-component terms, useful for compiling specialized dictionaries and enhancing machine translation within professional domains.

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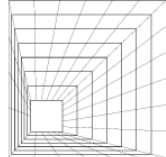
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