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THE PECULIARITIES OF STABLE WORD COMBINATIONS IN ENGLISH MEDICAL TEXTS

L.B. Grudoglo

*Pridnestrovian State University named by T.G. Shevchenko,
Tiraspol, Pridnestrovie, lida.grudoglo@mail.ru*

The article examines the linguistic specifics and features of the use of stable word combinations or phraseological units in medical texts in English. The characteristics of stable combinations such as semantic coherence, reinterpretation, fixity, and reproducibility, are analyzed.

Keywords: medical text, stable word combinations, phraseological unit, cliché, specificity.

Medical texts are a special object of linguistic study. One of the distinctive features of medical texts is the presence of a large number of stable word combinations that are repeated in many texts and therefore have the features of phraseological units, stable phrases and clichés. Stable combinations in medical texts, act rather than as means of expression designed to make medical texts more vivid, but reflect a speech culture developed over the years, aimed at maximizing the accuracy of information transmission in order to avoid ambiguity, since human health may depend on the accuracy of the message transmission in this case.

The purpose of this work is to determine the specifics of the use of stable word combinations in medical texts in English. The tasks include analyzing the available classifications of stable word combinations and determining the linguistic characteristics of stable word combinations found in medical texts in English, as well as determining the specifics of their use.

The main research methods are stylistic text analysis, lexico-semantic and syntactic analysis of word combinations, and quantitative and statistical analysis of the use of word combinations in texts.

The source of the selection of material for this article was the instructions for medicines and articles in English published on the Internet on the websites of the International Journal of Medical and Health Research and the Difficult Airway Society, with a total volume of about 50 thousand printed characters. 65 stable word combinations were selected for direct analysis.

A sufficient number of works have been devoted to the analysis of the specifics of medical text. S.F. Galkina studies the genre characteristics of medical texts based on patient's outpatient chart. An analysis of the stylistic and structural features of medical texts shows that they belong to the scientific style, but they also features peculiar to documentary texts, and more narrowly to technical documentation texts [1, pp. 27-31].

In particular, taking into account V.V. Vinogradov's classification, the types of stable word combinations in the work of M.O. Yunusova are structured, which forms the basis for further analysis in this article, since it is developed based on the English language, taking into account its features. According to M.O. Yunusova, stable combinations include:

- 1) idioms with semantic coherence, which is formed on the basis of rethinking the components of a stable combination (the meaning of such phraseological units is not derived from their constituent words and is perceived as a single whole; these combinations may be metaphorical in nature, but over time the metaphor may be lost);

- 2) Combinations of words representing terms of a certain field of knowledge;

- 3) The so-called phraseological predicates and phrasal verbs specific to the English language;

- 4) Introductory constructions.

M.O. Yunusova calls the presented types of stable combinations phraseological units of the first (idioms), second (terminological expressions), third (phrasal verbs and predicates) and fourth (introductory constructions) order, respectively.

The presented classification is effective for describing stable phrases found in scientific and technical texts in English, in particular medical texts, since it allows to expand the range of stable English combinations studied, including complex verb forms and introductory constructions characteristic of the analyzed English-language medical texts. In general, this classification reflects the distribution of stable combinations of English words into groups depending on the degree of fusion and reinterpretation of the words included in these combinations, where phraseological units of the first order are combinations of words with the highest degree of reinterpretation, and phraseological units of the fourth order practically do not contain words used figuratively, but are reproduced in texts in a fixed form, which indicates their stability.

Idioms, or phraseological units of the first order, are extremely rare in the analyzed texts, since emotional coloring and metaphorical imagery are not characteristic of medical texts, although researchers note that scientific medical texts in English are characterized by greater expressiveness compared to texts in Russian. Actually, idioms can be

recognized as such combinations as the English disease 'рахит', Achilles Heel 'ахиллесова пята', belly button 'пупок'. With respect to these examples, we can talk about the non-deducibility of the meanings of phrases from the words included in them.

The second-order phraseological units, which are terminological expressions, are most often found in medical texts. It should be noted that medical terminology combinations often include separate reinterpreted words. For example, in the combinations urinary tract, respiratory tract, mental disorder, and blood vessels, the words tract, disorder, vessels the corresponding Russian words 'канал', 'пути', 'расстройство', 'сосуды' are metaphorically reinterpreted, but adjectives retain direct meanings.

When comparing Russian and English combinations reveal that a word used figuratively in one language does not always have a figurative meaning in a similar combination of words in another language, for example, the word tissue in the Russian combination повреждение тканей has a figurative meaning, and in similar English combinations 'tissue damage' or 'tissue injury', the word tissue. It is used in the direct meaning of "a system of homogeneous cells" (a direct correspondence to the Russian word fabric in the first meaning in English – textile). Similarly, the word fracture in combination with multiple fractures has the direct meaning of 'bone fracture', while the Russian word перелом in medical terms is reinterpreted and in the first meaning corresponds to the English 'break'.

Expressivity can, in principle, be present in English medical texts, but to a limited extent. Quantitative expressivity is dominant (most essential, much less limited, etc.) In addition, reinterpreted figurative combinations are used to indicate bright external signs of the disease. For example, Cri-du-chat (cat's cry) syndrome is a 'синдром кошачьего крика', restless legs syndrome is a 'синдром беспокойных ног'. Medical terms have their own characteristics: combinations, usually of a nominative nature, consisting of words from the general stock of the literary language, become stable terminological expressions in medical texts, for example: high blood pressure 'высокое кровяное давление', a blood clot 'тромб', heart attack 'инфаркт', complete heart block 'полная блокада сердца'.

When analyzing medical texts, prescriptions, and instructions for medicines, you may notice that phraseological units of the first order may occur in sections describing symptoms, indications, contraindications, side effects, and consequences of overdose. These expressions are also often found in medical journal entries and outpatient patient records. Examples: cough and wheeze like a cat on a hot tin roof means 'to be nervous, to experience nervous tension'; ring alarm bells – 'alarm signal'; a bitter pill to swallow – literally 'a bitter pill that must be swallowed'; on the road to recovery – 'to be on the road to recovery', to look off color – 'to look unhealthy', to be / feel under the weather – 'being weather-dependent', a charley horse – 'muscle cramp'. These phraseological units are found not only in medical texts, but also in other texts to enhance their expressiveness. For example, the phraseology a shot in the arm literally means not a shot in the arm, but 'a medical injection', and the figurative meaning of the phrase means 'support, incentive, inspiration, burst of energy'; to be a guinea pig means 'a test subject, a person who is used to conduct various experiments', this idiom corresponds to the Russian expression 'подопытный кролик'.

Phraseological units of the second order are also found in these sections of medical tests, but especially many terms are given in sections describing the pharmacological effect of the drug, pharmacokinetics, components of medicines, effects of interaction with other drugs. For example, the names of diseases/ conditions are kidney, heart, liver

failure ‘почечная, сердечная, печеночная недостаточность’, stomach ulcer ‘язва желудка’, bypass surgery ‘шунтирование’. The substances included in the composition are maize starch ‘кукурузный крахмал’, magnesium stearate ‘стеарат магния’, colloidal *anhydrous* silica ‘коллоидный безводный диоксид кремния’; groups of drugs – anti-coagulants ‘антикоагулянты’, ace-inhibitors ‘ингибиторы АПФ’, corticosteroids ‘кортикостероиды’, cardiac glycosides ‘сердечные гликозиды’.

Phraseological units of the third order, which are phraseological predicates, can most often be found in sections describing the methods of using medicines and doses. Examples: to take tablets ‘принимать таблетки’, to take into account ‘принимать во внимание’, to follow the prescription ‘следовать предписаниям врача’.

At the end of instructions for medicines, phraseological units of the fourth order are usually used – fixed standardized clichéd constructions that are mandatory in such medical texts.

A quantitative calculation of stable combinations of the I, II, III, IV order in the analyzed material shows that the most numerous class of stable combinations of medical words are phraseological units of the II order, which are terminological expressions, most of which are names of diseases and symptoms containing words of Latin and Greek origin. The second largest class consists of phraseological units of the third order, which are phraseological predicates and combinations with phrasal verbs. This class of stable medical word combinations is typical, in particular, for the English language. Phraseological units of the first and fourth order make up smaller and approximately equivalent classes, with clichéd phrases (phraseological units of the fourth order) representing the smallest class in terms of the number of word combinations included in it.

However, an analysis of the frequency of use of stable combinations of words of these classes in the analyzed text material indicates that combinations of the fourth order are more often used in texts – clichéd phrases reproduced in medical texts without changes.

Despite their relative small number in terms of quantity, clichéd combinations of words are the most commonly used in medical texts. It is using clichés that medical texts acquire the features of standardized documents typical of technical documentation texts.

Thus, the analysis made it possible to come to the following conclusions: 1. Stable combinations are quite often used in medical texts and generally correspond to the linguistic characteristics of stable combinations used in texts on other subjects. The frequent use of stable terminological expressions and template phrases in medical texts contributes to their perception as specific medical phraseological units, thereby achieving a certain standardization of medical texts.

2. Medical phraseological units in English can be divided into classes depending on the degree of fusion and reinterpretation of the words included in the phraseological units. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the degree of coherence and reinterpretation is quite difficult to assess by any external criterion, so it is difficult to draw clear boundaries between the selected classes when analyzing specific examples. As a variant of such a criterion, we can suggest the number of words used figuratively as part of a phraseological unit, where phraseological units of the first order should include expressions in which all words are used figuratively; phraseological units of the second order should include combinations with one word in a figurative sense, and so on. However, such a formal rule does not always work, as a result of which it is necessary to use additional classifying features, for example, the functioning of a combination of words

as a term. It is worth noting that reinterpreted phraseological units that begin to function as terms due to the stability of their form and reproducibility may lose their imagery over time.

3. The ratio of phraseological units among themselves has shown that phraseological units of the second order, represented by terms and terminological expressions, occupy a large proportion compared to the rest. Phraseological units of the first order, which are idioms, are not very characteristic of the scientific style; therefore, they are quite rare in medical texts. Phraseological units of the third order (phrasal verbs and phraseological predicates) are specific to English-language texts; They reflect features more characteristic of colloquial than scientific style, however, these combinations of words are quite common in the texts of medical articles. Stable combinations of the fourth order, representing clichés that give a standardized character to medical texts, constitute the smallest class of phraseological units in quantitative terms, but the most frequently used texts.

The conducted research of stable combinations of words in medical texts in English has practical significance for the development of glossaries and systems for automated translation of medical documentation from Russian into English and vice versa.

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ОСОБЕННОСТИ УСТОЙЧИВЫХ СЛОВСОЧЕТАНИЙ В АНГЛОЯЗЫЧНЫХ МЕДИЦИНСКИХ ТЕКСТАХ

Л.Б. Грудогло

*Приднестровский государственный университет имени Т.Г. Шевченко,
Тирасполь, Приднестровье, lida.grudoglo@mail.ru*

В статье рассматриваются лингвистическая специфика и особенности употребления устойчивых словосочетаний или фразеологизмов в медицинских текстах на английском языке. Анализируются такие характеристики устойчивых сочетаний, как семантическая связность, реинтерпретация, фиксированность и воспроизводимость.

Ключевые слова: медицинский текст, устойчивые словосочетания, фразеологизм, клише, специфика.