

Are there Connections between English and Romanian Terminology in Medicine?

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Abstract. The article deals with the analysis of the evolution of Romanian medical terminology. Based upon the theoretic exploration on the concept of linguistic influence, the present paper underlines the wide-ranging aspects of English impact on Romanian language in the scientific field of medicine. The translation of medical terms from Romanian into English represents a fascinating and valuable area for translation studies. On the other hand since borrowing is one of the normal neo-logical processes that every language has at its disposal to enrich its lexis. This circumstance is thoroughly related to the general tendency of popularization in science. For that reason it can be anticipated that English terms will become more and more extensively used in popular science texts in the future.

Keywords: translation, translator, medical language, Romanian language, influence

1. Introduction

Medicine is an area of knowledge in fast-tracked scientific and technological advances, each year a large number of new terms are incorporated in the medical lexicon. Because of the need to quickly update their knowledge, health professionals learn directly in the original language of the publication and stick to it in daily usage, including congresses and articles written in Romanian.

Medical language belongs to the so-called languages for special purposes which differ from everyday language above all in the specificity of the terminology and in that they are used in communication between professionals. These languages for special purposes are part of the language system and can be classified in different ways. This classification is always difficult, since these languages are in constant development and partially overlap with everyday language.

2. Concept

Many researchers classify translation as either literary or technical, with no difference between the different types of technical translation. Conversely technical translation includes medical, scientific, engineering, legal, financial and other non-literary areas.

The term 'technical translation' is used to label any project that involves the translation of specialist terminology. If a document contains specialist terminology that will require the services of a specially trained translator or significant background research then it can be considered a 'technical translation'. For a literate translator, the most obvious hurdle is in attempting a technical translation anyway it would be the specialized vocabulary, everywhere each area has its own and therefore has these stumbling blocks and require specialist knowledge.

The extensive history and recent practical importance of medical translation, combined with the fascination upon medicine has always held in all cultures, are powerful incentives for wannabe translators.

Medical translation has always been of major importance within the field of translation, because a large number of texts are translated and hence this area represents a large share of the market of technical translations.

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3. The influence of English on Romanian language

The extension of the frontiers of knowledge in science and technology in particular has been accompanied by the creation of a vast terminology necessary to describe the discoveries made and to express the concepts that have evolved in the course of this development. "As English has become the international language used in science and technology, it is not surprising that it has become the primary source for the creation of new concepts and their corresponding denominations. These new concepts tend to carry their names into the adopting languages, becoming on many occasions integral parts of their word stocks" (Alcaraz Ariza and Navarro, 2006) [1].

The influence of English on Romanian Language was made through the massive retrieval of lexical elements and also by assigning the meaning of the English borrowings. The Romanian language has drastically changed from a well-known wooden language before the communist times to a dynamic, fresh and new language. Given also the integration NATO and the European Union, the Romanian language is under the influence of English more than ever. From the latter half of the 20th century till now, the most prominent influence on the Romanian medical language has been that of English. English is now by far the most used language by especially the younger generation.

The influence exerted by English on the Romanian medical language has affected all levels of linguistic systems, ranging from lexis and semantics to syntax and pragmatics, with the borrowing of vocabulary items being nevertheless by far the most common. In effect, the lexicon is the one that facilitates all the other types of borrowing: of sounds, semantic loans, and the borrowing of syntactic patterns.

The translation of medical terms from Romanian into English represents a fascinating and valuable area for translation studies. All European languages share the same Greco-Latin roots in medical terminology [3]. The preservation of the Latin language as the language of sciences until the 19th century, contributed to a great range of lexical similarities in medical nomenclature, and its effects can be observed until today. The knowledge of the Latin roots helps professionals in the field of medicine to understand medical texts in different languages.

The analysis of English/American medical terminology is particularly complex, especially since the phenomenon itself appeared as a massive increase. In Romanian language this field of research has not undertaken a thorough study from the perspective of the insertion of Anglo-Saxon element. There are certainly references in studies devoted to francophone or pragmatics, the influence of English as a general phenomenon, or manifested in other scientific fields. One of the dictionaries that include a good part of English medical terms is the third edition of Dicționarul medical written by Valeriu Rusu, with multiple Anglo-French etymologies.

As one knows, English language has two roots, Saxon and Romance (French source) and for that reason the 'Anglicization' of Latin medical terms was a beneficial process, and the harmony of language. We will stop at a few examples of medical and pharmaceutical terms in table 1:

Table 1: [4],[5]

Latin	English	Romanian
adjuvantus	adjuvant	adjuvant
balsamum	balsam	balsam
bronchia	bronchus	bronhii
capsula	capsula	capsula

According to the translation situation and/or to the textual genre, it is necessary to take into account the different register levels and possible changes in vocabulary, especially when translating from Romance languages like Romanian, which sometimes have only one term, of Latin origin. As well recent evolution in the influence of Anglo-American terms in everyday language as in science should also be taken into account, since the English language has strongly influenced, and is still influencing, 'scientific' language and, through this influence, many terms (some of them from a Latin or Greek origin) were also introduced into the Romanian language, both in specialized and popular discourse.

The terms analyzed in this article were carefully chosen from a selection of widely held scientific texts, and many examples were collected by medical students in translation classes. Nevertheless this list lacking some, these terms already allow us to characterize typical translation problems. For that reason the translator should make a choice concerning the English term and the Greek/Latin equivalent when translating popularizing texts. We will now exemplify by introducing the English term and its translation into Romanian as seen in Table 2.

Table 2: [6],[7]

English	Romanian
acne	Acne
allergy	Alergie
anemia	Anemie
anorexia	Anorexie
apathy	Apatie
appendicitis	Apendicită
asthma	Astm
bronchitis	Bronșită
bulimia	Bulemie
cephalalgia	Cefalee
conjunctivitis	conjunctivită
constipation	constipație
diabetes	Diabet
diphtheria	Difterie
edema	Edem
embolism	Embolie
epilepsy	Epilepsie
fever	Febră
gastritis	Gastrită
leukemia	Leucemie
scoliosis	Scolioză
sinusitis	Sinuzită
syphilis	Sifilis
thrombosis	Tromboză
tuberculosis	tuberculoza

In the medical field, the transfer of Anglicisms can firstly be accounted for by the scientists' extensive reading of English written medical literature, especially after 1990, when they had free access to information written in the new global language, English.

As a consequence some causes which determine the adoption of Anglicisms/ Americanisms in contemporary medical language. The extra linguistic factors are: some rationalize this with the development of medical science and others in relation to globalization. But the most significant linguistic factors are: the shire absence of Romanian terms in mono-semantic and international circulation as seen in Table 3. The intention of the researcher is to ensure the transparency of significance and to preserve the suggestive values of the English term.

The 'calque' is a French term denoting a new word modeled after a word in another language. A calque emerges when the language is adapted to new concepts (Bussman, 2006)[2]. We close our brief survey of the English influence on the Romanian medical language with some examples of Romanian medical calques of English expressions shown in the table below.

Table 3: [6], [7]

English	Romanian
nuclear medicine imaging	imagine de medicină nucleară
coronary circulation	circulația coronariană
interatrial septum	sept interatrial

congenital anomaly of hear	malformații congenitale ale inimii
aortic valve	valvă aortică
end-to-end anastomosis	anastomoză termino/terminală
end-to-side anastomosis	anastomoză termino/laterală
killer cell	celulă ucigașă
host cell	celulă gazdă
glucose tolerance test	test de toleranță la glucoză
double-blind test	test dublu orb

Romanian medical field is one of the most important areas on which English had an impact.

Nevertheless, even though almost all of our medical knowledge is imported and not very well adapted to the Romanian reality, taking on some simple measures can, at least, preserve the language we use. The first of these involves losing your fear and translating all foreign terms the very first time that they are published in Romanian, thus avoiding their constant use in English. A respectable alternative, in most cases, would be to hold onto the original, in one way or another, to advance the reader's understanding.

The English words in the Romanian medical vocabulary cannot be exactly stated, as there are daily borrowings and thus their number is increasing. Most of these terms are considered international terms, concepts, processes, phenomena, belonging mainly to medicine, science etc.

4. Conclusion

A society permanently renews, transforms and changes itself in an amazing rhythm, this having multiple consequences both on scientific domains and on language, namely on its vocabulary. In general, medical terminology is characterized by a various and rich number of terms, both regarding their form, diffusion or frequency, and also their origin. Moreover, in the 20th Century we may easily notice the constant presence of some new lexical elements in the medical terms corpus already fixed during the last centuries.

A consequence of this accumulation of neologisms is that we are faced now with a real medical neolanguage, together with other characteristics of present medical terminology, namely the tendency of internationalization, through the impressive number of internationalisms, represented by Latinisms and Anglicism. These terms facilitate the accurate decoding of the medical message by medicine specialists who speak different languages.

Romanian language is very dynamic and due to the opening of the European Union borders this effect was even accelerated and helped it to change itself. It borrowed many words and expressions from English in different fields, because it was and still is highly motivated by the freedom of expression of the younger generations.

5. References

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