PARTICULARS OF TERMS: FEATURES, FUNCTIONS, CLASSIFICATION

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Summary

In today's context of globalisation and active cooperation between different countries, the translation of terms, especially those related to professional activities, is of particular importance.

Rapid developments in technology and changes in geopolitics lead to the emergence of new terms. Given that the Ukrainian language does not always have an equivalent, this complicates the translation process and requires the use of various translation strategies to achieve adequacy and accuracy.

The objective of the research is to outline the main characteristics and functions of terms, taking into account their classification, and to determine the peculiarities of translating terms in accordance with these criteria.

In the process of analysing the definitions of 'term', it was found that the most appropriate, especially for military terminology, is the definition by D. Lotte, which focuses on the unambiguity, brevity and inclusion of the term in the system. A term is a fundamental element of scientific and technical communication, providing accurate and unambiguous designation of concepts in professional and specialised discourse. Their origin, evolution, and structure reflect the linguistic dynamics and specificity of the field knowledge.

Our study identifies the following features inherent in the terminological system: consistency, conciseness, stability, and standardisation.

Terms form the basis of professional speech, playing a complex role in the system of scientific communication. As linguistic units, they are characterised by systematicity, which ensures the logical ordering of concepts within a particular field of knowledge. Due to their conciseness and precision, terms form a clear and unambiguous structure of knowledge, contributing to its effective transfer. Their stability and standardisation are the foundation for preserving the continuity of the scientific tradition, while creating the preconditions for international cooperation in the context of globalisation.

Key words: term, terminology, specialised concepts, functions of terms, features of terms, classification of terms.

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1. Introduction

Terminology is an integral part of professional speech that ensures accurate and clear transmission of specialised concepts related to professional activities. In today's context of globalisation and active cooperation between different countries, the issue of translating terms is of particular importance.

This is due to both the development of scientific and technical cooperation and the need to ensure mutual understanding during exercises and joint operations.

The relevance of the research topic is due to the growing role of terms in the context of geopolitical challenges and the need to ensure accuracy, standardisation and adaptation of terminology in Ukrainian translation. Due to the constant development of technology, new terms are emerging, which complicates the translation process and requires the use of various translation strategies to achieve adequacy and accuracy.

Considering the multicomponent nature of terminology, its interdisciplinary nature and the frequent absence of established equivalents, the study of the peculiarities of its translation is becoming an urgent task for modern linguistics.

Objective: to outline the main characteristics and functions of terms, taking into account their classification, to determine the peculiarities of translating terms in accordance with the specified criteria.

2. Definition of the term and its classification

A term is seen as a linguistic unit that serves to nominate specialised concepts and ensures accuracy, unambiguity and consistency in a particular professional communication. The word '*term*' comes from the Latin "*terminus*", which means 'end, limit, end'. In the Middle Ages, this word acquired a new meaning – 'definition, designation'.

In Old French, the word '*terme*' was used to mean '*word*'. According to such researchers as E. Littre, O. Bloch and P. Robert, it was this Old French word that became the basis for the modern French '*terme*', which has acquired the modern understanding as a '*term*' in scientific and technical language.

The word '*term*' was borrowed into English from the Old French "*terme*" meaning '*boundary*', and later came to denote specialised concepts used in scientific and professional discourse. The term has common European roots, which reflects its multivalent development in the languages of Western Europe.

O. Ponomariv defines a *term* as a unit of a historically developed terminological system that defines a concept and its position in the system of other concepts. The term is expressed by a word or phrase, serves for communication between people united by a common specialisation, is part of the lexical structure of the language and is subject to its laws *(Poltoratskyi, 2020).*

In his turn, M. Denysiuk states that terms denote deep scientific concepts, as opposed to ordinary words that reflect everyday, simple concepts *(Serhiienko, Denysiuk, Serhiienko, 2020).*

For our research, the most appropriate definition is that of D. Lotte. His approach to the definition of a *term* as a unit characterised by unambiguity within a certain terminology system, concisely and accurately conveys a strictly defined concept, directly correlates with the peculiarities of terminology. In this area, it is important to ensure the unambiguity and accuracy of the transfer of concepts, as this determines the correctness of communication in a professional environment *(Bilozerska, Voznenko, Radenka, 2010: 16).*

The minimised semantic characteristic of a term, as described by D. Lotte, is especially important for terminology, since such terms should avoid the variability and ambiguity inhe-

rent in commonly used words. This, in turn, helps to maintain clear boundaries of concepts and ensures their compliance with international standards.

In linguistics, a term is seen as a dynamic element of language that is constantly changing, while remaining a key unit of nomination of special concepts. Its main features are precision, definiteness, systematicity, nominative, stylistic neutrality and motivation.

Accuracy and unambiguity of terms are perceived as an ideal to which terminology aspires, rather than as an unchanging characteristic. Definiteness of a term is its ability to denote a special concept with clearly defined boundaries.

In this context, a set of terms is part of a terminological system that reflects the structure of concepts in a particular field of knowledge or activity. Nominative is considered to be the main function, since its main task is to express a concept. Stylistic neutrality ensures the absence of emotional and expressive colouring, which makes it universal in professional communication.

In modern linguistics, terms are classified according to their structural organisation, which allows for an effective analysis of their role in professional communication. T. Kiyak and Z. Kudelko distinguish three main types of terms: word terms, phrase terms and multicomponent terms *(Diakov, Kyiak, Kudelko, 2000).*

Word terms are the simplest form of terminological units. They consist of a single word that stands for a specific scientific or technical concept. This category includes examples such as *плазма, трансформатор, катіон, фотон* in the context of the natural sciences, and their English equivalents, respectively *plasma, transformer, cation, photon*. Such terms are distinguished by a high level of conciseness and unambiguity within a particular terminology.

The second group consists of *phrase terms*, which are more complex in structure and can be divided into two subtypes. The first subtype is free phrases in which each component is an independent term that can function independently. Examples of such terms are *квантова механіка, молекулярна динаміка, електромагнітне випромінювання*, and their English counterparts *quantum computing, atomic interaction, electric field*.

The second subtype is *related word combinations* in which the individual components have no terminological meaning outside the context, but when combined, create a new concept. For example, the terms *важка вода, чорна діра, швидкий реактор* in scientific terminology, or their English analogues *heavy water, black hole, fast reactor*. This type of term is characterised by a greater dependence of the components on each other, which makes it difficult to interpret them out of context.

The third group consists of *multi-component terms* that include three or more elements. They are less common, but they are indispensable for denoting highly specialised concepts. Terms such as. *оптимізація параметрів інженерних конструкцій, моделювання теплообміну в багатофазному середовищі – finite element analysis method, laser-induced fluorescence spectroscopy, automated control system for robotics*, demonstrate high information content and accuracy. At the same time, their complexity makes it difficult to use them outside the professional sphere. The following classification of specialisation of terms by T. Kiyak is as follows (see Table 1).

According to this, a term is a fundamental element of scientific and technical communication, providing accurate and unambiguous designation of concepts in professional and specialised discourse. Their origin, evolution, and structure reflect the linguistic dynamics and specificity of the field knowledge. The classification of terms by their structural organisation and sphere of functioning allows us to effectively study their role in the transmission of information.

Table 1

Term classification by area of operation and specialisation

Term category	Features	Examples
General scientific terms	Used in most scientific disciplines; have an interdisciplinary character; denote general concepts.	*hypothesis (гіпотеза), structure (структура), concept (концепція), procedure (процедура).*
Cross-sectoral terms	Function across several related or distant disciplines; the meaning of the term is usually retained but may vary depending on the context.	*matrix (матриця), modulation (модуляція»), flow (потік), bridge (міст).*
Highly specialised terms	Inherent in one particular field of knowledge; describing specific concepts or objects.	*neutrino (нейтрино), genome sequencing («секвенування геному), oxidizer (окислювач*).

Source: created based on (Kyiak, 2008), (Kovalenko, 2001)

3. Main characteristics and functions of terms

Terms differ from common words by a number of specific characteristics that determine their function in the language. One of the main properties of terms is their specificity of use. A term always belongs to a particular field of knowledge or activity and is used exclusively within that field, serving as a professional designation of concepts.

Another defining feature of a term is its semantic precision, which is the specificity of its meaning. This precision is due to the fact that the concept denoted by the term usually has precisely defined boundaries, as defined by the definition. Precision is an important requirement for terms, as they must ensure unambiguous understanding within the terminology system *(Kovalenko, 2001).*

Terms are also always accompanied by definitions, which are provided in specialised dictionaries. The scientific definition of a term differs significantly from the definitions in general literary dictionaries, where commonly used words are explained as representations that are sensory and visual and generalised.

Such definitions often reflect only the external features of objects or phenomena without revealing their internal structure. Instead, the definitions of terms focus on the precise outline of the content of the concept.

In our study, we identify the following features inherent in the terminological system. The first feature is *systematic*; each term organically fits into the interconnected structure of the terminology system of a particular field of knowledge *(Kovalenko, 2001).* This interdependence makes it possible reflect clearly the logical structure of the field, forming a single, ordered system of concepts that contributes to a deeper understanding and ordering of knowledge.

Another important characteristic is *conciseness*. A term always strives for the most concise and accurate expression of the essence of a concept. Another important property is *stability*. The term retains its form and meaning for a long time, which ensures the continuity of the scientific tradition. This stability allows specialists to navigate a large amount of information while maintaining unity in the perception of concepts even after many years.

The importance of *standardisation* should be noted separately. In many fields of knowledge, terms are subject to special regulation and unification. This guarantees uniformity in

Table 2

Functional features of terms

Function	Features	Implementation features
Nominative	Designate and differentiate concepts by defining terms through genus and species.	Forms a terminological system; has a pragmatic aspect in scientific texts aimed at reasoned presentation of new knowledge.
Informative	Identify important characteristics of objects, explain phenomena and processes, contributing to the reader's awareness.	Forms the generality and abstractness of the scientific style; creates an information chain where terms perform both nominative and informative functions.
Representative	The process of persuasion and interest.	Terms represent knowledge that is important for a particular field; related to the pragmatics of scientific article writing.
Heuristic	It facilitates the acquisition of new knowledge and knowledge of the unknown; records the results of the cognitive process.	The terms summarise new knowledge and stimulate cognitive interest, encouraging the scientific community to conduct further research.
Intellectual	Appeals to the intelligence of the reader-scientist, integrating the knowledge of previous generations with new achievements.	Provides a link between already known research results and the latest discoveries, promotes the integration of scientific knowledge.

Source: based on (Yakhontova, 2014)

the understanding of key concepts not only at the national but also at the international level. In a globalised world, such consistency is extremely important, as it ensures accurate communication between specialists from different countries and facilitates effective cooperation (see Table 2).

4. Conclusions

Based on the study of the concept of *term* and its classifications, the article establishes that a term is a fundamental unit of the terminological system which acts as a carrier of conceptual content and ensures accuracy and consistency of communication in a particular professional field.

The main features of terms, in particular precision, definiteness, stylistic neutrality, consistency and motivation, form their key function in scientific, technical and professional discourse.

Terms form the basis of professional speech, playing a complex role in the system of scientific communication. As linguistic units, they are characterised by systematicity, which ensures the logical ordering of concepts within a particular field of knowledge. Due to their conciseness and precision, terms form a clear and unambiguous structure of knowledge, contributing to its effective transfer. Their stability and standardisation are the foundation for preserving the continuity of the scientific tradition, while creating the preconditions for international cooperation in the context of globalisation.

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