TERMINOLOGY: RETROSPECTION AND PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Romanian medical language is due to the Romanian traditions under the influence of universal medicine, externalizing medical experience for centuries and medical philosophy itself. In the beliefs of the Romanian people, human health depends on the power of each person's guardian angel. If it runs out, man becomes vulnerable and "glues all kinds of diseases" (P. Stefanuca). Nothing produces a deeper impression on man than the pathological condition of his body. In chronicles, the person affected by a disease becomes "ill in his health" (Gr. Ureche), "the one tired of virtue" (M. Costin) "falls into disease" (Gr. Ureche). The communion universe (macrocosm) and body (microcosm), present in the existential philosophy of the Romanian people, enters medicine, whose object of study is man in his physical and spiritual integrity. Nationally, we refer to the terminology of a language, to a culture; internationally – to a terminology able to partially neutralize the intralinguistic differences with a translingual status. Romanian medical language presents a symbiosis of national medical terminology (formed on the basis of the words from the traditional vocabulary, subject to terminologization) and international terminology (focused on the international general lexicon).

Key words: *medical language*, *scholarly elements*, *national terminology*, *international terminology*, *meaning*

Résumé

Le langage médical roumain est dû aux traditions roumaines sous l'influence de la médecine universelle, en extériorisant l'expérience médicale des siècles et la philosophie médicale elle- même. Dans les croyances du peuple roumain la santé de l'homme dépend de la puissance de son ange gardien. S'il s'épuise, l'homme devient vulnérable et il «colle toutes sortes de maladies» (P. Stefanuca). Rien ne produit une impression plus profonde sur l'homme que l'état pathologique de son organisme. Dans les documents chroniques, la personne affectée par une maladie devient «malade de santé» (Gr. Ureche), «celui fatigué de vertu» (M. Costin) «tombe dans la maladie» (Gr. Ureche). La communions entre l'univers (macrocosme) et le corps (microcosme), présente dans la philosophie existentielle du peuple roumain, pénètre en médecine, dont l'objet d'étude est l'homme dans son intégrité physique et spirituelle. À l'échelle nationale, nous nous référons à la terminologie d'une langue, à une culture; au niveau international – à une terminologie capable de neutraliser partiellement les différences intralinguistiques ayant un statut translingual. Le langage médical roumain présente une symbiose de la terminologie médicale nationale (formée à la base des mots tirés du vocabulaire traditionnel, soumis à la terminologisation) et de la terminologie internationale (ciblée sur le lexique général international).

Mots-clés: *langage médical*, *éléments savants*, *terminologie nationale*, *terminologie internationale*, *sens*

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1. Medical Terminology in Retrospect

Medicina disciplina antiqua est, being dominated by the personality of ancient doctors (Greek and Roman), which assume a great part of medical language. Thales tried to explain some phenomena linked to medicine and nature (year 650 B.C.). Alexandria became one of the most famous medicine and education center in Greece (year 330-100 B.C.). Hippocrates was born in 460 B.C., being considered the father of medicine, a Greek doctor who in his doctrine created a medical "terminosystem" and is the author of the Oath of all doctors.

Centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire, the Latin language was governing the entire world. Greek medicine migrated to Rome, a lot of terms being introduced in its terminology. In the 14-16th century Greek ancient science was rediscovered and the medical texts were accepted as dogmas in human anatomy, physiology and treatment, further being a basis for the discoveries made by several scholars. Latin as a science language was manifest until the beginning of 17th century, but the vertiginous development of the modern language in the 16th century announced the confrontation of national terminology versus Latin terminology.

A similar phenomenon is attested first in France, England, Italy, later in Germany. In France a doctor named Rivière is accused of non-professionalism because he does not know Latin.

A French essayist (16th century) remarks: "Medical language is a foreign idiom in general language and owns discrepancy in sounds" (Banay 1). In 1839, the German doctor L. Schönlen, decided to hold his inaugural lecture in Berlin in his native language, Deutsch.

Thereby the Latin language is substituted as a teaching language keeping its nominative function and its permanent position in key-components of medical terminological language.

Despite of the evident retraction of Latin within medical terminology, in 20th century, professional communicative acts written in the national language are increasingly using Latin terms. This case has as a support generally known advantages: on the one hand – terminological continuity, from a spatial point of view (it is a widespread terminology, universal, unlimited by certain barriers for any nation); Latin and Greek languages being a unique extraction reserve of new terms, or if needed the source of created new terms[1].

Latin language remains to be a "communication language", teaching/learning of medicine material (anatomy - *musculus latissimus, tuberculuim majus, ala maior,* etc.), demonstrating one more time that *Non est medicina sine lingua Latina.* Some terms used in unmodified form for about 2000 years:

Arteria carotica – in Greek *karoun* means "to lose consciousness, to stun". Galenus discovered that a small pressure on arteries caused unconsciousness, this fact being the source of its naming.

Aorta – this term was used for the first time by Hippocrates and it means "a duct, whose lumen was filled with air and of which the lungs were hung"; Aristotle considered it an artery on which the heart was hung; Galenus named it *arteria maxima*; Thomas Bartholinus named it poetically (*ibidem*) – *mater arteriarum* etc.

[1] Holomonova *et al.*, *Andreas Visalius – the reformer of anatomy Andreas Visalius – the reformer of anatomy*, p. 364-369.

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All anatomical nomenclatures produced so far have used Latin as a basis. The first official recognition and confirmation of Latin anatomical nomenclature happened thanks to German anatomists at the Anatomists' Union congress, Basle, 1895 – the first standardization *Basiliensia Nomina Anatomica.* At that moment this step was the result of an urgent necessity.

However the designation system turned out to be confusing and incomplete, which determined a second standardization in 1935 – *Jenainsia Nomina Anatomica*. Later (since 1956), referring to *Nomina Atomica* (NA), six reviewed editions were published, elaborated on IANC solicitations, which intended to cover the terminological requirements, through the introduction of new terms, excluding conceptual and linguistic differences and recommending that on its basis the new nomenclatures be created.

Thereby the Latin language has deep roots in the medical terminology and its presence is considered to be a common communication material. During a development which lasted more than two millennia, an extraordinary influential and viable tradition was established, able to oppose any other competitive substitution. Thus, any possible doubts pertaining to further functioning of Latin in medicine can be considered unsubstantial.

2. Medical terminology – in perspective

The cultivation of medical terminology is harnessed through the international lexicon, formed under the influence of extralinguistic factors, which have as an objective the planning, standardization and compilation of natural languages.

Kubreakova E. considers[2] the international lexicon a totality of lexical units, whose functioning is dictated by two mechanisms – nominative and syntactic; one its responsible for the selection and creation of denominative units, the other –for word formation.

The nucleus of the international general lexicon is formed by *autonomous and non-autonomous terminological units of Greek–Latin origins* (the euphuisms).

Greek and Latin stratified (because they had not evolved in time) providing preponderant monosemantic lexical units (a definitive aspect in the construction of specialized language terms) and are a secure source of creating new terms, because the "legacy of Greek – Roman people is the cradle of Roman spirituality and through it, of thought in general" and without "the Greek miracle, systemized and transmitted by the Latin genius, modern spirituality cannot be conceived"[3]. A statistical analysis of terminological elements included in the Actualized Dictionary of Neologisms (2013), emphasizes the next fact: out of 1401/100% terminological elements, 930 (66,38%) are of Greek origin; 447 (31,9%) – Latin origin; 5 (0,12%) – English origin; 14 (0,99%) – French origin; 1 (0,07%) – Spanish origin; 2 (0,14%) – Italian origin; 1 (0,07 %) – Arab origin; 1 (0,07 %) – German origin; 89% out of these are used in medical terminology.

The neologizing of medical terminology occurs through: a) lexical loan determined by the impossibility of formally equalizing two metalinguistic systems: "In such cases the method applied is that the given word is not translated, but is transcribed

[2] Елена Кубрякова, *Человеческий фактор в языке. Язык и порождение речи*, p. 13.
[3] Horia Matei, *O istorie a lumii antice*, p. 15.

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or is transliterated using the graphic resources of the other language"[4]; b) indirect translation (adoption of equivalents).

The creation of new words is not realized *ex nihilo* in both morphological and semantic plan: various neologisms contain the novelty through original association of already registered morphemes (derivation, composition, conversion) but cut in an original state and reaching the status of neomorphemes. The preexisting and existing units form the system, even if the new joints cover the voids[5].

Thereby, in 1957 W. Brigden proposed a generic denomination of heart diseases – *cardiopathy* associating the neomorphemes of Greek origin: *kardia* "heart" + *pathos, patheia* "disease, affection", which are present in the general lexicon with a status of non-autonomous terminological units, which ensures a logic conceptual conjunction and a transparent suture of the term, this fact facilitating the decoding of information.

The general lexicon accepts the term *cardiopathy* proposing it further to other languages: Engl. C*ardiopathy*; Fr. *Cardiopathie*; Germ. K*ardiopathie*; Russ. *Кардиопатия*, etc.

In this way, Greek and Latin serve as scholar languages predestined to unify the scientific national languages. In terminology, lexical units preexistent to new terminological units are not considered neologisms, their translexical status being highlighted and the "interlingual" and terminological status being assigned to them as well.

Scara a numerilor şi a cuvintelor streine tâlcuitoare (The stair of interpretative foreign numbers and words) of Dimitrie Cantemir, attached to *Istoria Ieroglifică* (18th century) (22-36), announces the formation of this lexicon. Out of over 100 present terms, 18 have been included in the international lexicon: "*anomalia* – thing, word, which goes against"; "*laringa* – throat"; "*ipohondraiac* – the disease which feels the fantasy, weakness of body, which are around the heart"; "*antidot* – cure for a given disease", etc.; Others did not resist time: "*antifarmac* – cure for poison"; "*cfartană* – fever the 4th day", etc.

The formation of this lexicon is contoured in the 19th century, through attestation of loan - compound terms: *cardioalgie* or *cardioalghie* – the term was attested in *Macroviotica* of I. F. Sobernheim (Iaşi, 1838)[6]: < Gr. *kardia* "heart" + < Gr. *algos, algesis* "pain".

3. Conclusion

National terminology is often false put in opposition to international terminology, which has as a basis thematic elements of Greek-Latin origin. Terminological universals penetrate the languages through the flow of terminological neologisms. How is a term formed? How is it accepted in terminology and which are the ways through which it stabilizes in a language? – are aspects which permanently require to be elucidated, because the language perpetuates and the sources of lexical enrichment are immense as well as human creativity. In contrast to colloquial language, a spontaneous creation, specialized language is created consciously, some

[4] V. Zvegnicev, *Prefaţă la ediţia rusă a lucrării* Hamp, Eric P. *Glossary of American Tehnical Lingvistic Usage, 1925-1950*, p. 7-8.

[5] Cusin-Berche, *Le lexique en mouvement: création lexicale et production* sémantique, in "Langage", p. 13.

[6] Nicolae Ursu, *Formarea terminologiei ştiinţifice româneşti*, p. 32.

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terms having authors. The terms formed on the basis of thematic universals have a special mobility in word forming and in semantic variation forming. Terminological universals have a translinguistic status, which allows them to "synthesize" scholars' creative spirit in new lexeme inclusions. Terminology makes use of lexical units preexistent to terminological units, with a translexical and "interlingual" status. Despite the effort of some scholars to "protect" the national terminology, terms formed an international background (lexemes and morphemes or Greek–Latin scholarly elements), "once wearing the costume of national language", are included in the national terminology, reserving an international status because "foreign words must present themselves in Romanian clothes and wear a Romanian mask in front of us" (Ion H. Rădulescu).

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