

PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING MODERN PSYCHOLOGICAL  
TERMINOLOGY FROM ENGLISH INTO UKRAINIAN

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The dynamic development of cooperation in all spheres of human activity is a distinctive and integral characteristic of our society. Psychology, being in close relationship with other branches of scientific knowledge, is constantly improving and progressing. The main feature of psychological literature is the use of special terminology (Kapardis, 2014).

The aim of the article is to study and characterize problems of translating modern psychological terms from English into Ukrainian. The object of the research is the text of the article *Hyperactivity and inattention (ADHD)* from the resource *Encyclopedia of Early Childhood Development/ [www.encyclopedia-deti.com]*.

Translation of psychological terms from English into Ukrainian is a complex and difficult process. These difficulties stem from differences in the structure and vocabulary of two languages and the ever-evolving nature of scientific terminology. One of the main difficulties of translating psychological terms from English into Ukrainian is the lack of consistency in the use of terminology. A lot of terms have multiple translations in Ukrainian, that result in confusion and inconsistency. Sometimes there is no established Ukrainian equivalent for an English term. Absence of Ukrainian equivalent may lead to the adoption of loanwords or the emergence of new language units, new scientific terms. It is in the competence of translator to convey the meaning of scientific terms and definitions, even if is difficult to find the correspondent word - equivalent in the native language.

Another difficulty for translator lies in the differences in the grammatical structures and vocabulary of English and Ukrainian. It is known that English tends to use simpler grammatical structure than Ukrainian. And Ukrainian has rather various and complex vocabulary that can influence the possibility to find appropriate equivalents for English terms. All these factors can lead to inaccuracies in translation.

Scientists characterize "the concept of translational transformation as the relationship between the original text and the translated text. This process can be defined as interlanguage transformations that are carried out to achieve translation equivalence" (Karaban, 2018, p.279).

In the analyzed text method of calquing or loan translation was often used. Using this method the constituent parts of the word or phrases are translated by the corresponding elements of the target language. For example, we have used “сімейні та близнюкові дослідження” for “family and twin studies”, “critical parenting” for “критичне виховання”, “гіперактивно-імпульсивний тип” for hyperactive-impulsive type, “intervention strategies” for “стратегії корекційного втручання”. Particular analogues for the author’s concept do not exist in the Ukrainian language and word-for word translation allows to convey the semantic meaning in the most accurate form.

Some terms used in the analyzed text do not have Ukrainian equivalents, so they were translated by means of descriptive translation. This method “is used when the lexical unit of the original language is replaced by a word or word combination that conveys its meaning” (Karaban, 2018, p. 343). For example, during the analysis of the terminological phrase “perspective taking” in the sentence “The encouragement of use perspective taking, delay of gratification, and effortful control are associated with decline in aggression” it was determined that it is possible to use a descriptive translation «приймати думку іншої людини». In psychological dictionary this term refers to “the act of perceiving a situation or understanding a concept from an alternative perspective, such as another person’s opinion” (Colman 2009). The same technique was used for translation the term “delay of gratification” «завдання з відстроченою винагородою. In the dictionary, the term "delay of gratification" refers to ” the act of refusing the urge to receive a reward immediately in the hope of receiving a more valuable reward in the future” (Colman 2009). This method was also used for translation of the following psychological terms: “effortful control”- “довільний контроль поведінки», “inattentive type” – “тип із переважанням порушень уваги”, “defiance” – “демонстративна протестна поведінка”, “emotional dysregulation” – “невміння справлятися з емоціями”.

Another challenge arises from the flexible and sometimes context - specific meaning of English psychological terms. Terms like “anxiety”, for example, might describe a fleeting emotional reaction or a long-term personality trait. Ukrainian addresses this nuance through distinct terms – «тривога» for situational anxiety and «тривожність» for anxiety as a trait. This need for linguistic specificity demands careful contextual analysis, as selecting the wrong term risks distorting the intended meaning, underscoring the precision needed in these translations.

In conclusion, structural and semantic peculiarities of psychological terms demonstrated the complexity of language within the psychological domain. Translating psychological terminology from English into Ukrainian is a multidimensional process that extends far beyond word-for-translation.

This process requires from a translator not only linguistic but also special knowledge in the field of psychology.

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