MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND ITS LINGUISTIC FEATURES

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Abstract. *Medical terminology in the Russian language represents a complex and highly structured linguistic system shaped by historical development, borrowing processes, and functional demands of medical communication. As a language of science and professional discourse, Russian has developed an extensive terminological framework that enables precise description of medical concepts, conditions, and procedures. This terminology reflects both universal features of medical language and language-specific linguistic characteristics. This paper examines medical terminology in the Russian language from a linguistic perspective, focusing on its lexical, morphological, and semantic features. The study explores the role of word formation processes, including borrowing, affixation, and semantic adaptation, in shaping Russian medical terminology. Particular attention is given to the interaction between native linguistic elements and international medical terms of Latin and Greek origin. By analyzing medical terminology as a linguistic system, the paper highlights the structural organization and functional specificity of Russian medical language. The findings demonstrate that Russian medical terminology combines international standardization with language-specific features, contributing to clarity, consistency, and effectiveness in professional medical communication.*

Keywords: *linguistic features; Russian medical terminology; word formation; medical discourse; semantics; morphology; professional language.*

Introduction

Medical terminology constitutes a core component of professional language, serving as a primary tool for the representation, transmission, and interpretation of medical knowledge. In the Russian language, medical terminology has developed into a complex and highly organized linguistic system that reflects both universal principles of scientific naming and language-specific features. Its formation has been influenced by historical, cultural, and functional factors, resulting in a terminological structure that is both internationally recognizable and uniquely adapted to the Russian linguistic framework. The Russian medical lexicon has evolved through continuous interaction with other languages, particularly Latin and Greek, which have traditionally served as the foundation of medical nomenclature. These borrowed elements were not simply transferred into Russian unchanged; rather, they underwent phonetic, morphological, and semantic adaptation in accordance with the norms of the Russian language. As a result, Russian medical terminology demonstrates a dynamic balance between international standardization and national linguistic identity.

From a linguistic perspective, medical terminology in Russian can be analyzed as a specialized subsystem of the language characterized by precision, stability, and functional restriction. Unlike general vocabulary, medical terms are designed to minimize ambiguity and ensure consistency of meaning within professional communication. This requirement has shaped the lexical and grammatical properties of medical terms, influencing their word formation patterns,

semantic structure, and usage in discourse. Morphology plays a central role in the organization of Russian medical terminology. Affixation, compounding, and hybrid word formation processes contribute to the expansion of the terminological system. Prefixes and suffixes, many of which originate from classical languages, interact with Russian grammatical structures to produce terms that are both semantically transparent and linguistically integrated. This interaction highlights the adaptability of the Russian language in accommodating complex scientific concepts.

Semantically, Russian medical terminology exhibits a high degree of conceptual density. Individual terms often encapsulate detailed information about physiological processes, pathological conditions, or diagnostic categories. Meaning is constructed through systematic relationships between terms, forming semantic fields that reflect medical classification and conceptual hierarchy. Understanding these relationships is essential for accurate interpretation and effective professional communication. The functional dimension of medical terminology is equally significant. In clinical, educational, and academic contexts, Russian medical terms serve as instruments of precision and authority. They enable professionals to communicate efficiently, structure medical knowledge, and maintain standardized discourse within the medical community. At the same time, the specialized nature of this terminology creates a clear boundary between professional and non-professional communication.

Despite its importance, the linguistic characteristics of Russian medical terminology are often taken for granted in practice. Terms are frequently treated as fixed technical units, with limited attention paid to their internal linguistic structure. A systematic linguistic analysis, however, reveals the underlying mechanisms that govern term formation, adaptation, and semantic organization. Such analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of how medical language functions and evolves within the Russian linguistic system. Therefore, examining medical terminology in the Russian language from a linguistic perspective is both relevant and necessary. By analyzing its lexical, morphological, and semantic features, this study aims to highlight the structural principles that shape Russian medical terminology and to demonstrate how linguistic factors contribute to clarity, consistency, and effectiveness in medical communication.

Main body

Medical terminology in the Russian language constitutes a specialized linguistic subsystem characterized by a high degree of standardization, semantic precision, and functional restriction. As a component of professional discourse, it differs from general vocabulary in both structure and usage, reflecting the specific communicative needs of medicine. Linguistically, Russian medical terminology demonstrates a complex interaction between international scientific conventions and the internal norms of the Russian language. One of the defining lexical features of Russian medical terminology is its hybrid composition. A substantial portion of medical terms originates from Latin and Greek, reflecting the international nature of medical science. These borrowed elements have been systematically adapted to Russian phonological and grammatical patterns, resulting in forms that are fully integrated into the language.

At the same time, Russian medical terminology also includes native lexical elements, particularly in descriptive and functional terms, which coexist with international borrowings within the same terminological system. Word formation processes play a central role in the expansion and organization of Russian medical terminology. Affixation is among the most productive mechanisms, allowing the creation of new terms through prefixes and suffixes that modify core meanings. These affixes may be of classical origin or derived from Russian morphological resources. Their interaction produces terms that are semantically precise and

structurally consistent, enabling the systematic categorization of medical concepts. Compounding and hybrid formations further contribute to terminological development. In many cases, classical roots combine with Russian affixes, creating mixed forms that reflect both international standards and language-specific adaptation. This process illustrates the flexibility of the Russian language in accommodating scientific concepts while maintaining morphological coherence. Linguistically, such formations demonstrate the dynamic nature of terminology as a system responsive to both external influence and internal regulation.

Semantically, Russian medical terminology is organized into structured fields corresponding to anatomical systems, pathological processes, diagnostic categories, and therapeutic interventions. Terms within these fields are linked by hierarchical and associative relationships, forming networks of meaning rather than isolated units. This semantic organization supports clarity and consistency in professional communication, as each term occupies a defined position within a broader conceptual framework. Precision is a key semantic characteristic of medical terminology. Russian medical terms are designed to minimize polysemy and ambiguity, ensuring that each term corresponds to a specific concept. When semantic extension occurs, it is typically controlled and context-dependent, guided by professional norms rather than everyday usage. This controlled semantic behavior distinguishes medical terminology from general language and reinforces its function as a tool of exact communication.

Morphological adaptation also affects grammatical behavior. Medical terms in Russian conform to grammatical categories such as gender, number, and case, allowing them to function syntactically within sentences while preserving terminological integrity. This grammatical integration facilitates the use of medical terminology in academic texts, clinical documentation, and educational materials, ensuring linguistic coherence across different communicative contexts. The interaction between international and national elements represents a key linguistic feature of Russian medical terminology. While international terms ensure compatibility with global medical discourse, Russian linguistic structures provide accessibility and clarity within local professional contexts. This balance supports both international communication and national educational needs, highlighting the dual function of medical terminology as a global and language-specific system.

From a discourse perspective, Russian medical terminology contributes to the formation of professional identity. Mastery of specialized vocabulary signals membership within the medical community and enables participation in professional communication. Linguistically, terminology functions as a marker of expertise, reinforcing the boundaries between professional and non-professional discourse. Overall, the linguistic features of medical terminology in the Russian language reflect its role as a functional, adaptive, and systematically organized subsystem. Lexical borrowing, morphological productivity, and semantic structuring collectively ensure that Russian medical terminology remains precise, coherent, and responsive to the evolving needs of medical science.

Conclusion

The analysis of medical terminology in the Russian language demonstrates that it represents a highly structured linguistic system shaped by historical development, international influence, and functional demands of medical communication. Its lexical composition reflects a productive interaction between borrowed classical elements and native linguistic resources, resulting in a terminological framework that is both internationally compatible and linguistically integrated. Morphological processes, particularly affixation and hybrid word formation, play a crucial role in maintaining terminological consistency and enabling the systematic expansion of

medical vocabulary. Semantically, Russian medical terminology is characterized by precision, conceptual organization, and controlled meaning, which support clarity and reliability in professional discourse.

The linguistic features examined in this study highlight the importance of viewing medical terminology not merely as a technical inventory of words but as a dynamic subsystem governed by linguistic principles. Understanding these principles enhances terminological competence and contributes to more effective professional communication. In conclusion, medical terminology in the Russian language exemplifies the capacity of language to adapt to scientific needs while preserving internal coherence. Its linguistic features underscore the close relationship between language structure and professional practice, emphasizing the relevance of linguistic analysis in the study and application of medical discourse.

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