

WAYS TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATING MILITARY TERMS

This article examines the important language aspects of modern military terminology and its translation specifics. It examines the ways of solving difficulties in military terms translation.

Key words: translation, terms, military terms, military terminology, translation of military terms.

У статті розглядаються важливі мовні аспекти сучасної військової термінології та особливості її перекладу. Вивчаються шляхи подолання труднощів при перекладі військових термінів.

Ключові слова: переклад, терміни, військові терміни, військова термінологія, переклад військових термінів.

Each field of scientific or technical activity has its own professional language. Using terms is commonplace when communicating between participants in the same field of activity. They help to explain a certain process, phenomenon or object in one word or phrase. Since they are important in communication between professionals, their translation is also important to ensure that information is conveyed in a clear and accurate manner in another language. The translation of terms has been studied by various scholars, in particular, Bakitov A., Gasyuk N., Zaitseva M., Markelova A., Posylina K., Prokopenko A., Push O., Chuprina I., Smirnova T., Yanchuk S. [1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 10].

In the modern world, it is difficult to overestimate the role of military terminology translators. They act as “bridges” between different armies, ensuring understanding and cooperation on a global scale. Even the slightest inaccurate translation can have serious consequences, so the professionalism and responsibility of translators in this field are extremely important.

According to scientific researchers, the current state of military vocabulary is not stable due to the development of weapons and the creation of new warfare tactics. S. Yanchuk notes that the study of military vocabulary is not widespread. This is due to the fact that many original forms and documents on military topics are not available in open-access networks. Most are available only to a narrow circle of people involved in international military cooperation [6, p. 331].

When translating military terminology, certain difficulties may arise. To overcome them, there are various strategies and methods that help to choose an adequate translation option for specific terms.

One of the main mistakes when translating terms is trying to find a literal equivalent to a foreign term. This approach may not be very reliable, as it does not consider the peculiarities of the language, culture, and the source of the other language. It can also lead to the translation losing or even distorting the realities

of the source language. For example, terms used in one branch or area of the language may express concepts that have equivalents in other areas. Also, terms can be contextually defined, and their literal translation may be inadequate.

In the process of translating military terms, lexical equivalents are used, which can be represented as follows.

1) Terms that have full conceptual equivalence. These terms correspond exactly to concepts or realities in the source language. Their translation can be unchanged because they exist in the target language.

2) Terms with partial conceptual equivalence. These terms do not exist in the target language but can be adapted using the common terminology of that language. In this case, translators create similar terms that correspond to the conceptual meaning of the original terms.

3) Terms that do not have equivalents in the target language. These terms do not exist in the target language and do not have a generally accepted analogy. In such cases, translators must create new terms or provide explanations of their meaning.

Borrowing morphemes from other languages, such as Greek and Latin, can facilitate the creation of new terms and increase their understanding in a military context. Such developments help to standardise terminology and ensure consistency for translators and professionals in the field.

It is important to remember that the choice of translation methods for terms depends on the specific context and how important it is to maintain accuracy and comprehensibility for target language readers [10, p. 253]. When studying the translation of military terms, they can be divided into the following groups:

- terms that denote foreign realities identical to Ukrainian ones (for example, «*in security*» – «у безпеці»; understanding and translation of such terms is not difficult);

- terms that have an international equivalent (e.g., «*army*» – «армія», «*division*» – «дивізія», «*section*» – «секція»);

- terms for which the Ukrainian equivalent is used, which may differ from the form of the English term (e.g., «*company*» may be translated as «*пота*») [5].

When translating military texts, modulation is a widely used translation technique. This technique involves changing the form or structure of a term to increase its comprehension. For instance, “*after-action review*” can be translated as «розбір результатів виконання завдання» [8, с. 48], «для кращого розуміння» [2, с. 9].

When translating military-related texts, attention should be paid to various abbreviations and acronyms, which often do not have direct equivalents in the target language and may require additional time to decipher. For example, abbreviations *PFC* (*private first class*), *LTG* (*lieutenant general*), *LTC* (*lieutenant colonel*), *CI* (*counter-intelligence*), *HN* (*host nation*), *PO* (*peace operations*), *HA* (*humanitarian assistance*), *CZ* (*combat zone*), *MOOTW* (*military operations other than war*) мають свої відповідники: «старший солдат», «генерал-полковник», «підполковник», «контррозвідка»,

«приймаюча країна», «миротворчі операції», «гуманітарна допомога», «зона бойових дій», «операції невоєнного характеру» [2, с. 139–142].

In conclusion, translating English-language terms in military texts requires specialised knowledge, a deep understanding of military affairs, and high skill in using various translation methods. This is the only way to ensure accuracy and clarity in translation, which is critical for effective communication and cooperation in the global military community. The main task of the translator is to preserve the meaning and perception of the text in context, not just reproduce individual words. Effective translation considers the specifics of each language and culture, as well as the context in which the text is used. To achieve accurate and adequate translation, a translator must “be armed with” both a deep understanding of military terminology and the skills to adapt the text to the target language.

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