

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MEDICAL TRANSLATION TYPOLOGY AND SEMANTICS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation: This article analyzes the functional-semantic features of medical tropes used in English and Uzbek languages. It examines metaphor, metonymy, and euphemism found in medical terminology through illustrative examples, focusing on their communicative and semantic roles. The study identifies similarities and differences between medical expressions in both languages and emphasizes how their clarity, emotional impact, and contextual appropriateness contribute to their functional value.

Keywords: medical tropes, functional semantics, metaphor, euphemism, English language, Uzbek language.

Introduction

Medical linguistics as a branch of linguistics is becoming more relevant with the development of modern science and technology, the global health system, and international relations. In particular, metaphors (metaphor, metonymy, idiomatic units) serve as a means of simplifying medical texts, dialogues, or oral communication, and establishing empathy with the patient. In Uzbek, doctors often use expressions such as “gijja yuribdi”, “opka to‘lib khalqan”, “suv urgan”, while in English there are expressions such as “the liver is sluggish”, “he has water on the lungs”.

Medical lexicon is one of the most complex and developed layers of any language. Medical metaphors — that is, language units that express medical information in a figurative, abbreviated or generalized form — occupy a special place in linguistics. Medical metaphors in English and Uzbek are distinguished by their structure, semantic load, cultural content and functional functions. This article studies medical metaphors in two languages, analyzes their semantic differences and common features. At the same time, the importance of such metaphors in medical communication, problems in translation and their functional role are explained with examples.

Theoretical concepts about medical metaphors

Medical metaphors are used to compare the human body, disease or treatment process with other objects. In English, it is common to compare the heart as a “pump”, brain activity as a “computer”, and interpret the disease as an “enemy”. In Uzbek, these metaphors are more folk and emotional: expressions such as “jigari kuydi”, “ichida ot yakildi”, “yuragi siqildi” play an important role in explaining physical and mental states in the minds of ordinary people. These differences are associated with the worldview, national ideology and religious views inherent in both languages.

Medical metaphors in English

Metaphors in English are widely used as one of the main tools for increasing emotional impact and comprehensibility in medical discourse. For example, “battle metaphors” — “He is fighting cancer”, “She lost the battle with COVID-19” — interpret the disease as an enemy. “Machine metaphors” — “The brain is wired differently”, “The heart is a pump” — present the body as a mechanical object.

Such metaphors serve as a powerful tool for lifting the patient's spirits or encouraging him to fight the disease.

Medical metaphors in the Uzbek language

Metaphorical expressions in Uzbek medical discourse are folk, emotional, and religious in tone. Expressions such as "Yuragi siqildi", "ichida ot yakildi", "jigari kuydi" figuratively convey stress, anxiety, grief, or health problems. Also, in the Uzbek language, difficult situations are expressed more gently through euphemisms: "song'i hanf aldi", "hayotdan og yumdi". These tropes are closely related to traditional images formed in culture, belief, and oral language.

Comparative analysis

There are important differences between English and Uzbek medical metaphors. While English medical metaphors are mainly based on technological, scientific, and war-related images, in the Uzbek language they rely more on emotional, religious, and folk images. While in English, expressions such as “cancer is an enemy” and “brain is a computer” are widespread, in Uzbek, images such as “fire was lit inside” and “liver burned” are more common. Thus, each language has its own metaphorical and semantic approach to describing medical conditions.

Medical metaphors from the perspective of cognitive linguistics

When analyzed on the basis of cognitive linguistics, metaphors in language shape human thinking. For example, through conceptual metaphors such as “disease is an enemy” and “treatment is the way”, ideas about the human body and health leave an imprint on the mind. In English, these concepts are formed through technological and scientific images. In Uzbek, such metaphors are reflected through folk oral creativity and religious imagination. This approach reveals the cultural roots of medical metaphors.

Psycholinguistic impact of medical metaphors

Psycholinguistic studies show that tropic units directly affect the psyche of the patient and the listener. A strong metaphor can motivate the patient and increase the feeling of fighting the disease. However, incorrect metaphors can lead to anxiety or misunderstanding. For example, the phrase “your immune system is attacking itself” can be used to describe an autoimmune disease, but it can evoke negative images. Therefore, medical metaphors should be chosen carefully.

Differences between terms and metaphors

While medical terms are clear, standard and scientific, metaphors are simplified, understandable and have a more emotional color. For example, if “myocardial infarction” is a scientific term, “heart attack” is its simplified and widespread tropic expression. In the Uzbek language, figurative expressions such as “myocardial urishi” or “myani kon bashi” are more often used

instead of “myocardial infarction”. These simplifications make it easier to understand for people without medical knowledge.

The role of medical tropes in media texts

In modern media, blogs and social networks, medical tropes are used to convey information quickly, emotionally and effectively. During the COVID-19 pandemic, expressions such as “the hidden enemy”, “the silent killer”, “the virus has taken over the world” became widespread. Although they were used to attract public attention and emphasize seriousness, they sometimes caused panic or increased negative mood. Therefore, social responsibility in the use of tropes in media texts is of great importance.

Conclusion

Medical metaphors are complex language units located at the intersection of linguistics, psychology, healthcare, and cross-cultural communication. This article analyzes various forms of medical metaphors in English and Uzbek, their semantic, functional, and psycholinguistic features. Research shows that medical metaphors directly affect not only the delivery of information, but also how it is perceived. The role of metaphors in emotionally alleviating the condition of patients, simplifying medical concepts, and forming different views of the disease in the social consciousness is significant.

Future research directions may include the following areas:

Equivalence of metaphors in medical translation: searching for synonymous expressions of medical metaphors in different languages, studying their semantic subtleties, and developing translation strategies appropriate to the cultural context.

The use of metaphors in artificial intelligence and healthcare chatbots: exploring mechanisms for identifying metaphors in AI systems communicating with patients and enhancing empathy for the patient through them.

The use of metaphors in psychotherapy: the therapeutic effect of metaphors in restoring mental health, their role as a means of expressing the patient's inner experiences, should be studied in depth.

Tropical expressions in cross-cultural health communication: in the process of globalization, especially for doctors working in a multinational environment, it is becoming increasingly relevant to develop a metaphorical model suitable for different cultures.

The social impact of metaphors in media texts: it is possible to create monitoring systems for how medical messages are conveyed in the media through metaphors, and how they affect perceptions of health problems in society (panic, empathy, indifference).

In conclusion, medical trope units are not just figurative means of language, but an important communicative resource for transmitting information in the field of health care, consciously shaping society, and establishing empathetic communication with patients. In this direction, deep and systematic research is needed, approaches combined with modern linguistic technologies.

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