

General History of the Latin Language and Medical Terminology and its Importance

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Abstract: “Latin language and medical terminology,, is consisted of three parts: anatomical, clinical and pharmaceutical parts. All medical terms are related to some parts that can help to students and to research works in while training of fundamental subjects and the subjects on specialty. All grammatical themes, lexical minimums were enlightened widely and additional information from foreign literatures under the author “Barbara Gyls, Regina Masters”, “Medical Terminology Simplified” were included in three parts of the subject.

The aim of this article is to prepare the students understanding of medical terminologies in Latin language grammar and translation of anatomical terms to correct clinical diagnosis and correct grammatical and spelling of prescriptions.

This article is recommended for the students of bachelor degree of all medical institutions.

Keywords: Terms, concept, science, scientific, medical terms, definition, terminology,

INTRODUCTION

Latin language and the base of medical terms - a new science for you. Therefore, first of all, we should clarify the purpose of studying it, its size and composition in general, why the Latin language has been used in medicine and biology for hundreds of years.

Term. Scientific concept. It is necessary for a specialist to successfully work in the field of science, technology and industry to understand the meaning of terms in a special lexicon, or in other words, terminology, and to use it clearly. The main task of the term (lat. terminus - limit) is to express the scientific concept only in its own way. As a term, there is a single word (organism, cell, organ, gene, disease, appendicitis, fluorography) as well as a combination of words (chest, neck bone, hypertensive disease, sanitation, radiation hygiene) can be. In contrast to the popular words of the literary language used in everyday life, the terms express scientific and scientific-technical concepts. The scientific concept is distinguished by its productivity of scientific theoretical conclusions, reflection of a certain scientific theory, a fragment of the scientific system of knowledge.

Definition or details of the definition. Unlike everyday words, a scientific concept has a definition (lat. definitio), or a short definition. Some existing features of the scientific concept are reflected in the definition. In special (terminological), encyclopedic dictionaries, the terms are enriched with definitions, for example:

“Pneumonia is an inflammatory process of lung tissue that occurs as an independent disease or as a complication of any disease.”

While both the specialist and the non-specialist use common language words and phrases equally, the specialist, unlike the non-specialist, knows the essence of scientific concepts that can

be evaluated according to the definition, for example: pneumonia, tuberculosis, sclerosis, cardiogram, stress, etc.

To know the essence of a scientific concept means to connect this concept (term) to others, to allocate a certain place in the system of concepts of science. Only at a certain stage in the definition does this connection and place appear.

Terminology. System of terms. A certain terminology of the field of knowledge, science is a system of terms, words and phrases used to distinguish scientific concepts in the system of concepts, which are in a certain relationship and interdependence.

Terminology is in constant motion: something changes, is added, becomes obsolete and goes out of supply is lost. Many long-known special words acquire a new scientific content. Many long-known special words acquire a new scientific meaning. Terminology is an important integral part of the language of science and scientific literature.

Why Latin, which belongs to the group of so-called “dead languages” for several hundred years, together with the “dead” ancient Greek language, still has an active influence on the development of the scientific languages of medicine and biology? To answer this question, we need to learn about the history of the Latin language and its role in the development of medicine.

From the history of the Latin language. The Latin language (*lingua Latina*) belongs to the Italic language group of the Indo-European language family. It was formed in the distant past. Initially, this language was spoken by the Latin tribe (*Latini*) living in the Latium region in the center of Italy, as well as by the people of Ancient Rome and the Italian tribes of the Apennine Peninsula, which came under Roman control at the beginning of the 1st century AD. From the middle of the 3rd century, the Latin language, together with the Roman legion, countries with more ancient culture - Greece, Carthage, Egypt, Syria, etc. - and Europe's culture penetrated into the lands of that time.

The history of the ancient Latin language is divided into 5 periods that differ from each other to one degree or another:

- 1) the period of the oldest Latin language (VI-IV centuries BC);
- 2) the period of the Latin language before the classical period (III-II centuries BC, the time of the formation of the literary Latin language);
- 3) the classical, “golden” period of the Latin language (1st century BC, characterized by a very rich lexicon and developed literature);
- 4) Post-classical, “silver” Latin period (1st century AD, the phonetic and morphological norms of the literary language were gradually formed);
- 5) the Latin language at the last stage (II-VI centuries; a difference between the written language and the colloquial language – “popular Latin” appeared).

After the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th century, the regional differentiation of the colloquial language accelerated, which led to the emergence of separate, independent Romance languages (Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, Moldavian, etc.) by the 9th century. The unity of the written Latin language was preserved, it continued to develop lexically, the basic vocabulary and grammatical structure of the classical Latin language stabilized. In all regions where the literary Latin language was spread, it was the language of administration, trade and school; in the Middle Ages, the whole of Western Europe was used as a common written language; Until the 18th and 19th centuries, it was the language of diplomacy, science and philosophy, and in the 20th century it became the official language of the Catholic Church, the Vatican (along with Italian). The Latin language played a huge role in the development of European culture. It had a

positive effect on the lexical enrichment and increase of political, scientific and technical terminological systems in European languages.

The Latin language is characteristic of the ancient Indo-European languages, it has retained features that bring it closer to the Hittite, Indo-Iranian, and Celtic languages. Its main phonetic features include phonological differentiation of vowel length, stress not falling on the last syllable of the word, consonants becoming weaker. Morphological features: use of inflection as the main means of form formation, existence of 5 types of inflection, 6 types of agreement, differentiation of 3 types of inclination (indicative, conjunctive, imperative) and 2 types of proportion (active and middle passive) in verbs, etc. In word order, the verb comes at the end of the sentence. In the lexicon of the Latin language, the influence of languages of closely related or unrelated tribes has been preserved. Greek to Latin, especially B.C. It had a strong and lasting influence in the III-I centuries. The lexicon of the Latin language, along with the Greek language, still serves as a source for the creation of international terms in the field of scientific terminology [1].

This article “Latin language and Medical Terminology” is designed to be a comprehensive for users covering the entire curriculum for medical students in this subject. The subject “Latin language and Medical Terminology” is a two-semester course that introduces students to the Latin and Greek medical terms that are commonly used in Medicine. The aim of the two-semester course is to achieve an active command of basic grammatical phenomena and rules with a special stress on the system of the language and on the specific character of medical terminology, and that to the extent that enables an active use of Latin and Greek medical terms and promote further own work with them. The “Latin language and Medical Terminology” consists of three basic parts:

1. **Anatomical Terminology:** The primary rank is occupied by anatomical nomenclature whose international version remains Latin in the full extent. All of the anatomical nomenclatures produced so far have used Latin as their base. The first official Latin anatomical nomenclature was introduced at a congress of the Anatomische Gesellschaft in Basle in 1895, the last edition, called *Terminologia Anatomica*, was introduced by the International Anatomical Nomenclature Committee and published in 1998. Latin as a dead language does not develop and does not belong to any country or nation. It has a number of advantages that classical languages offer, its constancy, international character and neutrality.

2. **Clinical Terminology:** Learning clinical terminology you should realize that it is in many ways like learning a foreign language. Like a foreign language, medical terms often sound strange and confusing. As a result of being unable to understand the words, they will have very little meaning to you. But it is wrong to assume that only highly educated people can use and understand them. Medical terms sound like a foreign language because the vast majority of them have Greek and Latin origin. So, for example, the word “gastrectomy” is of a Greek origin and means “the total removal of a stomach”. “Gastrectomy” comes from the Greek word “gaster” which means “stomach” and the Greek word “ectome”, which means “cut out”. The main reason of using these words is that medical terms provide one word that describes something that would otherwise take many words to say. For example, it is quicker to say “gastrectomy” than to say “the total removal of a stomach”. You will be able to learn medical terms by understanding the origins of these words in Latin and Greek.

3. **Pharmaceutical Terminology:** In pharmaceutical terminology Latin has, for the time being, remained a functioning means of international communication, guaranteed by the European

¹ S.SH.Rustamova, M.A.Saydullayeva, R.M.Abdullayeva, M.N.Israilova, D.Yu.Yuldasheva Toshkent tibbiyot akademiyasi, Toshkent-2017

Pharmacopoeia (1996) and by the corpus of International Non-proprietary Names (1992, 1996), even though in the future an ever stronger competition of national languages should be taken into account. But even though national languages have been favored in prescriptions in some countries, in many countries Latin has continued to be preferred and the standard international nomenclature of drugs is based on the Latin version. The Latin version of the pharmacopoeia has been used in Germany, Switzerland, Japan, China, etc.

Greek and Roman cultures are the foundations of western culture - its literature, ideas, art, politics, and conceptions of the individual. Greek myth is still a shared fund of images and narratives that express human experience. Latin is the major source of English vocabulary, and Greek provides scientific language in many fields. Greek and Roman cultures help us to understand the relationship between western culture and other cultural systems and place ourselves better in the world.

The study of Latin and Greek culture provides students with a better understanding of the roots of their own culture, which has been so strongly influenced by Roman and Greek art, Medicine, law, and religion. The pursuit of Latin and Greek language skills not only provides the broadening experience which comes from learning how to think and express oneself in another language, but can also be great aid to building vocabulary and language skills in English. Latin and Greek literature and mythology introduce you to classical authors whose excellence is beyond question and whose works and genres have influenced Western literature down to our own day.

- Greek is the language of Homer, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Diogenes, Plutarch and the Bible.
- Latin is the language of Plautus, Terence, Cicero, Vergil, Horace, Ovid, St. Augustine and St. Francis of Assisi.
- After the Roman conquest of Britain under Emperor Claudius, the native Picts' Celtic language first became infused with Latin, then merged with the new invaders' Germanic (Anglo-Saxon) dialects, and finally became English. Thus, Greek and Latin can be great aids to building vocabulary and language skills in English.

As the Romans conquered the then known world, Latin became the universal language of Italy and the provinces. Many centuries after the fall of Rome, Latin still ruled supreme. To this very day, Latin is the language of the Catholic Church, and during the formative period of the western European languages, it has incorporated in every one of them. The Latin language has been around for more than 2500 years and throughout the years has played a leading role in various fields. Not only was Latin the language of the Romans in antiquity, but at a later stage it also became the language of administrators, the Catholic Church, scholars and artists. Even now, the Latin language is present in a prominent way, especially in **Medicine**.

Science is of international nature. The development of technical languages in the individual branches of science is connected with frequent borrowing of foreign language lexical material, which is mostly of Latin or Greek origin. Greek and Latin represent the traditional language material to be used in **medical terminology**. English **medical terminology** developed from medieval Latin terminology, which had absorbed a developed Greek terminology. Greek medicine migrated to Rome at an early date, and many Latin terms crept into its terminology. Only a few medical terms came from the oldest developmental period of the English language (from Anglo-Saxon). Latin was the language of science up to the beginning of the 18th Century, so all medical texts were written in Latin [2].

² Д.К. Кондратьев, О.Е. Вылегжанина, Ю.В. Князева, 2005

Latin language is a basis of studying and use of medical terminology not only in a higher educational institution, but also at the subsequent professional work, and means of perfection of the person of the future physician. The need to master a set of professional terms is underlined by the design and content of the present textbook. It is prepared according to the Program of medical higher schools in Latin language and medical terminology and includes three sections: terminology of morphological disciplines – anatomy and histology; terminology of a complex of pathological anatomy and clinical disciplines; pharmaceutical terminology with the nomenclature of medical products.

The first section *Anatomical Terminology* includes 18 units. Each unit contains the Grammatik Commentary explaining the basic points of Latin grammar. The Grammatik Commentary is followed by exercises for development of practical skills in reading, accenting syllables, doing English-Latin and back translation of terms. There are Vocabulary Extensions listing anatomy terms of frequent occurrence at the end of each unit.

The second section *Clinical Terminology* consists of 7 units which include general clinical terms signifying various aspects of diagnostic and therapeutic processes. The practical exercises will help our students to construct medical terms and give the definitions to the scientific notions, expressed through medical terms in English. The Vocabulary Extensions contain the most common clinical terms and Greek stems for deriving new words as well as Greek and Latin prefixes.

The third section deals with *Pharmaceutical Terms* and is arranged in 10 units including information about units commonly used in generic drug names, dosage forms, names of vegetation materials, medicinal herbs, medicines, names of chemical element, acids, oxides, salts and ethers. There is a list of most common prescription formulas. The practical exercises have a number of prescriptions in English to be translated into Latin.

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