

**PANDEMIC LEXICON TRANSLATION PROPERTIES
(ON THE MATERIAL OF TURKISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES)**

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Abstract

The article is devoted to a deep analysis of the translational properties of pandemic vocabulary that emerged as a result of the global spread of COVID-19 based on Russian-Turkish comparison. The structural, semantic, and pragmatic features of new terms that have emerged in both professional and mass usage are explored. Particular attention is paid to neologisms, anglicisms, calques, hybrid models, and socioculturally determined forms. Semantic transfers, adaptation mechanisms of international terminology, and the sources of interference arising from the accelerated fixation of new units are analyzed. The properties that determine the complexity and multi-level nature of translation are identified: the dynamism of meanings, cultural marking, functional ambiguity, and the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach.

Keywords

pandemic vocabulary; translation; Russian-Turkish comparison; COVID-19; neologisms; terminological adaptation; interference; pragmatics.

Аннотация

Статья посвящена анализу свойств перевода пандемийной лексики, появившейся в результате глобального распространения COVID-19, на материале русско-турецкого сопоставления. Исследуются структурные, семантические и прагматические особенности новых терминов, сложившихся как в профессиональном, так и в массовом употреблении. Особое внимание уделяется неологизациям, англицизмам, калькам, гибридным моделям и социально-культурно обусловленным формам. Анализируются семантические переносы, механизмы адаптации международной терминологии и источники интерференции, возникающей вследствие ускоренной фиксации новых единиц. Выявляются свойства, определяющие сложность и многоуровневость перевода: динамичность значений, культурная маркированность, функциональная многозначность и необходимость междисциплинарного подхода.

Ключевые слова

пандемийная лексика; перевод; русско-турецкое сопоставление; COVID-19; неологизмы; терминологическая адаптация; интерференция; прагматика.

Annotatsiya

Maqola COVID-19 ning global tarqalishi natijasida paydo bo'lgan pandemiya leksikasining tarjima xususiyatlarini ruscha-turkcha taqqoslash materialida chuqur tahlil

qilishga bag'ishlangan. Ham kasbiy, ham ommaviy iste'molda shakllangan yangi terminlarning struktur, semantik va pragmatik xususiyatlari tadqiq etilgan. Neologizatsiyalar, anglitsizmlar, kalkalar, gibrid modellar va ijtimoiy-madaniy shartlangan shakllarga alohida e'tibor beriladi. Semantik ko'chimlar, xalqaro terminologiyaning moslashuv mexanizmlari va yangi birliklarning tezroq qayd etilishi natijasida yuzaga keladigan interferensiya manbalari tahlil qilingan. Tarjimaning murakkabligi va ko'p darajaliligini belgilovchi xususiyatlar aniqlanadi: ma'nolar dinamikasi, madaniy markirovka, funksional ko'p ma'nolilik va fanlararo yondashuv zarurati.

Kalit so'zlar

pandemiya leksikasi; tarjima; ruscha-turkcha qiyoslash; COVID-19; neologizmlar; terminologik moslashuv; interferensiya; pragmatika.

Pandemic vocabulary has become one of the most indicative phenomena of modern lexical development. Russian and Turkish languages demonstrated intensive creation of new words and meanings during the pandemic, driven by the need to describe unprecedented medical and social processes [1, 52]. Linguists note that the rate of emergence of new units during this period surpassed the rates of previous decades [4, 17]. This same circumstance complicated the translators' task, as a significant portion of terms arose spontaneously, initially lacking a clearly defined status, sphere of use, and normative fixation.

1. Semantic uncertainty and multi-leveling of meanings

The semantic instability of new lexemes became the first and most important feature of pandemic terminology. The concepts of *self-isolation*, *quarantine*, *observation* in the Russian language at the initial stage of the pandemic were combined into one semantic domain, but later acquired a clearer legal and medical differentiation [1, 128]. Similar dynamics were observed in the Turkish language (*karantina*, *izlasyon*, *evde kalma uygulaması*), however, the distribution of values sometimes differed [2, 114].

Direct translation of such units led to systemic inaccuracies, as their semantic fields did not fully match. For example, in Turkish *isolation* denotes strict medical isolation, while in Russian *self-isolation* includes voluntary, domestic, and administrative components. The translator is forced to take these differences into account, emphasizing the importance of contextual-pragmatic analysis [5, 210].

2. Neologization, borrowings, and hybrid constructions

One of the most productive sources of pandemic vocabulary has been English borrowings: *lockdown*, *fake news*, *covid hospital*. In the Turkish language, a similar influence led to the emergence of units *lockdown*, *fake news*, *Covid sertifikası*, although the Turkish regulatory environment actively offered national equivalents (*kapanma*, *sahte haber*) [3, 75].

The parallel use of international and adapted forms creates difficulties in translation, as choosing between them is determined by the genre of the text, style, target audience, and degree of standardization of terms. Many of these forms were hybrid in nature: Russian *covid-*

passport and Turkish *HES code* (digital sanitary code), although both terms describe a similar social function, they have a completely different structural-semantic nature [3, 81].

Many researchers emphasize that hybrid models are a sign of "forced terminologization," when a language adapts a new concept through the mixing of native and foreign morphemes [4, 41].

3. Administrative-legal and social pragmatics

Pandemic vocabulary functions at the intersection of professional and mass communication. This is manifested in the fact that the same terms are used simultaneously in legal acts, news, social networks, and everyday speech. The meaning of the word *lockdown regime* in the Russian context is related to the regulatory acts of the federation's subjects, while in Turkey *sokağa çıkma yasağı* has a stricter police and administrative character [5, 213].

For the translator, this means the need to consider the social pragmatics of the term: sometimes legal concretization is more important than formal semantics, and sometimes the opposite.

Special difficulty arose when translating expressions like *social distance* or *distance learning*. The Russian *social distance* has become established as a calque of the English *social distancing*, while the Turkish *social distance* is perceived primarily as physical distance without a socio-sociological component [2, 118].

4. Metaphorization and figurative-semantic models

During the pandemic period, dozens of metaphorical expressions emerged: *viral* behavior, *infection chain*, *break of disease*, *red zone*. Similar expressions in Turkish: *bulaş zinciri*, *kırmızı bölge*, *vaka patlaması* [5, 215].

Metaphorization is a characteristic of pandemic vocabulary, as media discourse sought to facilitate the perception of complex epidemiological data. However, when translated, metaphors do not always coincide in their expressiveness: for example, the Russian term *red zone* denotes strictly medical space, while the Turkish term *kırmızı bölge* is used both in medical and broad journalism. The translator must consider the degree of imagery to avoid stylistic inconsistencies.

5. Interference and Calquing

Active information interaction between countries has led to large-scale mutual calquing. Russian constructions *remote*, *mask mode*, *higher readiness mode* were reflected in Turkish publications, often in the form of partial calquing (*maske zorunluluğu*, *uzaktan çalışma*, *hazırlık durumu*) [6, 54].

Interference was also manifested in the fact that translators sometimes transferred the structure of a foreign expression without taking into account the syntactic features of the target language, which led to a decrease in the naturalness of the text.

Repeated use of the same terms (*quarantine, Covid testi, lockdown*) accelerated interference processes. The international nature of terms enhanced their semantic flexibility, but at the same time complicated translation decisions [4, 39].

Conclusions

Pandemic vocabulary in Russian-Turkish comparison exhibits a number of specific properties that significantly complicate the translation process. Key features include semantic dynamism, unstable meanings, a rapid rate of neologization, the active influence of the English language, cultural-pragmatic conditioning, and a high level of interference.

The translator must take into account that pandemic terms are formed in conditions of high information load, in interdisciplinary contexts, and often take on a metaphorical character. Only a comprehensive approach - combining semantic, pragmatic, social, and cultural analysis - ensures correct interlingual transmission.

Thus, the translation of pandemic vocabulary can be characterized as a dynamic, multi-layered, and highly contextual process that requires flexibility and adaptive competence.

List of used literature

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