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ANALYSIS OF WORD STRUCTURE AS EFFECTIVE APPROACH IN MASTERING ENGLISH MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

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In recent years English has established itself as the language of international communication in the spheres of science and education. This is especially evident in the field of medicine, as sometimes even domestic scientific journals are published in English in order to achieve a wider readership and raise the publication status. Therefore, mastering of medical terminology, which comprises almost half of professional text semantics, should be the primary goal in training course of health care professionals.

Historically, medical terminology had been most strongly influenced by ancient Greek and Latin languages. The paradox is that it happened after Latin had ceased to exist as the language of everyday communication, and Greek had changed beyond recognition. However, Greek and Latin terminology has been preserved in fundamental notions describing human anatomy and physiology and the names of pathologic conditions. Besides, it still continues to be used to denominate new concepts, such as names of medicines, newly recognized disorders, new medical procedures and equipment [1].

Derivatives of English medical terms can have a prefix, one or two roots, a combining vowel and a suffix, in various combinations. Introduction to the basic rules of word analysis makes learning terminology easier and more productive. Instead of memorizing the whole words, one should be able to analyze the word structure to understand complex medical terms. Changes in the meaning of a word by adding and replacing its parts - prefixes, infixes, suffixes – enables to understand the basic rules of word building through derivation, as well as to determine the meaning of the word as a whole through its component parts [2].

One of specific features of English medical terminology is simultaneous functioning of purely English words, e.g. *arm, liver, head, knee*, etc., which are usually used in colloquial language, and those of Greek and Latin origin, e.g. *appendicitis, cirrhosis, therapy*, etc. used strictly in medical communication. Although semantization of Latin and Greek medical terms causes no difficulties in medical students who study Latin, their mispronunciation is a common occurrence because of significant difference from Latin one.

The majority of medical words would be difficult to pronounce in case of combining vowel absence (usually *o*, less often *e*, *i*). Parts of the words that end in such consonants as *arthr (o)-, haem (o)-, neur (o)-, thromb (o)-* are called combining forms. Combining forms can be figuratively divided into logical groups: those used in terms describing body substances (*lip (o)-, calc (i)-, glyc (o)-* etc), body fluids (*chol (e)-, haem (o)-, hidr (o)-* etc), or in terms denoting colors (*erythr (o)-, leuk (o)-, albin (o)-, cyan (o)-* etc), etc.

A suffix is added to the end of the word thus modifying its meaning. In English medical terminology, suffixes are used to build nouns and adjectives. There is no distinct rule as to the use of suffixes *-ist, -ian* to form nouns that denote specialists in medical fields, such as *therapist, pediatrician*. In addition, no rules exist as to what exactly suffix *-logy, -ics, -tomy, -iatry* should be used to define certain branches of medicine - *biology, obstetrics, anatomy, psychiatry*. Therefore, the dictionary should be often consulted for proper spelling of those terms. The suffixes *-ac, -al, -ar, -ary/-ory, -ous, -ic/-ical* are used to form adjectives referring to something (*spinal, thoracic, pelvic, cardiac, vascular, osseous, hepatic, cardiac*).

A prefix is added to the beginning of a word and carries an important semantic load, e.g. *hyper-* means *excessive, excessive*, *endo-* *inside*, *sub-* *under, below* etc. Not all words can have prefixes.

Medical terms which refer to various body systems have their specific roots, prefixes and suffixes, in addition to general ones allowing to describe structure, functions and disorders. Knowledge of exact meaning of word components will enable the students to analyze and understand thousands of medical terms. A large number of terms have the same ending or common root or prefix, so knowledge of their denotations and the ability to recognize them will help to grasp the meaning of the term as a whole [2].

Examples of tasks targeted at mastering the strategies of realizing medical term based on the analysis of its component parts are word building from a box, which includes individual prefixes, roots, suffixes; division of the word into constituent elements and their explanation; replacement of the given word component and explanation of denotation change; formation of medical terms using Greek and Latin elements based on their description in English. Such regular tasks will help to master word analysis strategies leading to more productive understanding of scientific medical texts.

References:

- [1] Crystal, D. (1987). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
 [2] Chabner, D.E. (2014). *The Language of Medicine*. 10th edition. St. Louis: W.B. Saunders Company.