

# Theoretical Foundations of The Origin of Medical Lexicon

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**Abstract:** This scientific work provides information on the scientific and theoretical foundations of the study of medical lexicon in medical linguistics in world linguistics. Theoretical views on medical lexicon are given, a diachronic approach to it is analyzed. The origin of lexical units related to the field of medicine, their study in general, the gradual stages of development of this field include a set of knowledge and scientific worldviews from different periods of ancient history experienced by humanity.

**Keywords:** Lexicon, diachronic, Greek, lexical units, Latin.

**Introduction:** The level of development and improvement of a particular field of science is inextricably linked to how developed, standardized, and ordered the lexicon of that field is. The fact that lexical units related to a particular field, in particular, the specific aspects of terms, have not been studied and systematized also influences the style of speech.

The emergence of medical vocabulary for the first time in human history is inextricably linked to the actions of patients seeking healing from illnesses, and under the influence of various cultures, languages, and scientific achievements, it has a rich history dating back tens of thousands of years, that is, to antiquity. This history can be divided into several separate periods. For example:

**1. The period of ancient civilization:** it would not be an exaggeration to say that medical terminology has its roots in ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome during this period. In ancient Egyptian medical texts, particularly in Elbrus's papyri, there are specific descriptions of terms related to various diseases, their treatment methods, and anatomical structures.

**2. The Greek influence period:** The Greek physician Hippocrates, often recognized as the father of world medicine, introduced numerous medical terms and

concepts that are still used in medicine today. For example, the term "hypochondria" comes from the Greek words "hypo - depressed, sad," and if a person suffers from "hypochondria," even if they have no symptoms of illness, they become very worried about their health and imagine themselves to be sick. According to Hippocrates, this disease is mainly described as a condition characterized by unjustified constant anxiety and fear in the patient.

**3. The influence of Latin:** during this period, during the rule of the Roman Empire, Latin became the language of medicine lingua franca (lingua franca) and remained the language of science and medicine during the Renaissance. During this period, numerous medical terms emerged, the etymology of which traces back to the Latin language. For example, these include the term "pulmonary," which refers to the lungs, and the term "cardiac," which refers to the heart.

**4. The influence of the Arabic language:** in the Middle Ages, Eastern scholars made enormous contributions to medicine by translating medical texts written in Greek and Roman into Arabic and expressing their concepts in this field. During this period, lexical units belonging to the field of "spiritus - alcohol," "alcohol - alcohol" (actually al-kuhl) and "elixir - elixir" (actually

al-iksir) belonging to the Arabic language entered European medicine through translations.

**5. The Renaissance and the subsequent period:** The Renaissance and the growing interest in classical texts during the Renaissance restored attention to anatomy and physiology. By this time, scientists like Andreas Vesalius had made new discoveries in anatomy. As a result of these discoveries, new terms were adopted, such as, for example, the term related to the intestine "intestine" (lat. *intestinum*), borrowed from the Latin language, as well as the Latin "circulatio - circulation - rotation."

**6. The era of modern developments:** These periods date back to the 19th and 20th centuries. During this period, medical science developed rapidly and led to the adoption of several new specialized terms in the field, particularly such as microbiology, genetics, allergology, dermatology, pharmacology, angina, hematology. During this period, we can observe the emergence of such Latin terms as "antibiotic - against life," "gene - gen - origin."

As N.A. Budanova notes: "...the etymology of medical terms dates back to ancient Greek times, in particular, to the times when Hippocrates lived and created. According to historical sources, ancient lexical units related to medicine appear in Hippocrates' manuscripts written in the 4th-5th centuries BC. In these manuscripts, one of the medical terms related to the Greek language is anaemia; an + Greek *haima* - means blood, that is, anemia. The term anemia in medicine is characterized by a decrease in hemoglobin levels as a result of a decrease in the number of red blood cells present in the human body.

The Greek word "anemia" means "no blood." The prefix "an" in the word "anemia" expresses negation in the Greek language and participates in the use of the lexemes of deficiency, deprivation, poverty, as well as opposition [1, 94]. Additionally, the achievements of ancient medical civilization, lexical units used for disease diagnosis, written information about treating sick people and healing patients can be found in Babylonian cuneiform written monuments, particularly in ancient Egyptian papyri and Chinese hieroglyphic manuscripts [2, 238].

It should be noted that in medicine, terms borrowed from Latin and Greek are dominant in terms of

quantity. To prove our point, let's look at the following examples: One of the most actively used terms in medicine "anatomy" comes from the Greek word "anatomē," which means "splitting, cutting." The term "physiology" comes from the Latin words "physis" - nature and "logia" - study. In addition, "pathology - pathology" comes from the Greek words "pathos - suffering" or "disease" and "logia - study." The English term "surgery" also comes from the Latin word "cheirurgia," which means "hand work." These are just some of the medical terms originating from Latin and Greek. Currently, such medical lexical units are used to classify and describe human anatomical structures, physiological processes, certain diseases, and medical specialties.

According to the information provided by O.V. Velichko: "In very ancient times, in the territory of modern Italy, on the Apennine Peninsula, there was a province called Latium, where a Latin tribe lived. During the wars of conquest, this tribe established its dominance over the tribes inhabiting all of Europe, the northern part of Africa, and the Mediterranean Sea. He forced the tribes inhabiting the conquered lands to adopt their language, that is, Latin, as the state language. The first collection of medical terms was written by the physician Hippocrates, who lived in the fifth century BC" [3, 14].

Hippocrates is one of the founders of the scientific approach to treating human diseases. In his treatise "On the Sacred Disease - morbus sacer" (the ancient Greeks meant epilepsy), he argued that all diseases arise from natural causes. In Hippocrates' book "On Air, Water, and Places," the idea of the influence of geographical conditions and climate on the characteristics of the body, the characteristics of the population, and even the social system is put forward. According to him: "Diseases arise partly from our way of life, partly from the air we breathe and inhabit" [4, 245].

H.Hikmatullayev notes that scientific works on medicine were written mainly in Arabic, partially in Persian-Tajik from the time of Ar-Razi and Ibn Sina until the beginning of the 20th century, and after certain periods, due to circumstances, they were translated into Turkish, Uzbek, Tatar, and other languages. In the book "History of Diseases" written by Abu Bakr Razi (and his student), one of the representatives of Eastern

medical science, a number of Arabic terms were used: *uzn-quloq*, *isba'-barmoq*, *afn-burun*, *batn-qorin*, *shavoq-chakka*, *irq-tomir*, *kif*, *umuz-yelka*, and so on. The Turkish translation of "Histories of Diseases" is a valuable source for studying the development and enrichment of medical terminology not only in Turkish but also in other Turkic languages, particularly Uzbek [5, 49].

Of course, we cannot ignore Abu Ali Ibn Sina, one of the Eastern scholars who made an invaluable contribution to world medicine and is known in foreign countries as Avicenna, and his important work "The Canon of Medicine."

"The Canon of Medicine," as an ancient rare manuscript, is a unique and comprehensive source capable of systematizing lexical units related to the field of medicine and providing perfect knowledge about them. It is mainly a source that reflects and generalizes the etymology of words in Greek, Latin, Roman, Indian, and Arabic languages, specific diachronic features, and aspects of terms.

Historical-theoretical views on medical vocabulary are diverse and are based on several approaches. For example, from an etymological perspective, this perspective emphasizes the historical-genetic roots of medical lexical units. Of course, here we can say that the majority of medical terms and lexemes originate mainly from Latin, Greek, and other ancient languages. A good understanding of the etymology of lexical units related to medicine serves to clarify certain ideas about the true essence, meanings, and contexts of industry terms. Furthermore, the study of sectoral lexical units from a diachronic semantic perspective should not be overlooked. The main focus is on the specific meanings and interpretations of medical terms in specific historical contexts. In it, one can study how the meanings of lexical units in the field have changed over time, certain shifts have occurred in their semantics, and additional semes may have developed, as well as how members of society with different cultures have interpreted medical terms. This is also explained by the importance of sociolinguistic perspective in the study of medical vocabulary based on the diachronic approach. This view examines the dynamics of the social and communicative functions of medical vocabulary and how professional hierarchies are formed and reflected in the field of medicine. At the

same time, the influence of medical vocabulary on sectoral education, factors of professionalization, and the dissemination of a complex of medical knowledge among members of society are considered. Furthermore, to study and understand the diachronic evolution of medical vocabulary, it is advisable to integrate interdisciplinary concepts such as history, linguistics, sociology, psychology, and medicine.

In general, by studying medical vocabulary based on a diachronic approach, one can gain deeper information about which historical-evolutionary stages of development the language of this field has undergone.

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