

REPRODUCING UKRAINIAN WARFARE DISCOURSE
IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

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INTRODUCTION

A literature review reveals the widespread use of the term “military discourse”. Recent research and publications indicate a general interest in translating military discourse. Some Ukrainian scholars studied military discourse and its translation: Boyvan O., Kovtun O. (2020)¹, Ryabokin N., Pashko S. (2024)² Struk I.,³ Yablochnikova V. (2023)⁴, and others. However, most linguists do not differentiate between military and war discourses. Currently, there is a lack of works dedicated to translating war discourse from Ukrainian into English. War terminology not only significantly enriches but also extends beyond usage solely within professional military communication. It is widely utilized in both mass media and everyday communication. In the context of the war in Ukraine, translating war discourse becomes a crucial element in ensuring informational transparency and understanding events among the international community.

War discourse impresses with its wide prevalence in society. Terms, jargon, and military slang become a language understood by all. Words that were previously known only to a narrow circle of military specialists have become widely used.

¹ Бойван О.С., Ковтун О.В. Особливості перекладу текстів мілітаристичного спрямування на основі комплементарної єдності мовних явищ компресії і декомпресії. *Лінгвістичні дослідження: зб. наук. праць ХНПУ імені Г. С. Сковороди*. 2020. Вип. 53 с. 63-76 <http://dx.doi.org/10.34142/23127546.2020.53.06>

² Рябокiнь, Н. О., Пашко, С. В. . Особливості перекладу англomовної військової термінології на українську мову. *Наукові записки. Серія: Філологічні науки*, (208), 2024. С. 316–321. <https://doi.org/10.32782/2522-4077-2024-208-45>,

³ Struk I.V. Formation and translation of military terminology. *Вчені записки ТНУ імені В. І. Вернадського. Серія: Філологія. Журналістика*. Том 33 (72) № 2 Ч. 2 2022, С. 29–33, DOI <https://doi.org/10.32838/2710-4656/2022.2-2/05>

⁴ Yablochnikova V. O. Translation peculiarities of the military terminology. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2023. № 61, С. 246–250. DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2409-1154.2023.61.54>

The relevance of the research is driven by the necessity of ensuring adequate and correct translation of war discourse for effective international military cooperation. Translating war discourse is important for media publications and educational programs to enable the global society to better understand events in the realm of security and global conflicts.

The main material for our study is the Ukrainian anthology “Стан війни”⁵ and its English variant⁶. This book contains texts by well-known Ukrainian authors who wrote their works after the start of the full-scale war. Among them are: Serhiy Zhadan, Oksana Zabuzhko, Yuriy Andrukhovych, Andriy Lyubka, Taras Prokhasko, Oleksandr Mykhed, Artem Chekh, and Iryna Tselik. The foreword to this collection is written by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, General Valeriy Zaluzhny. The anthology is a book of reports by very different people united by war. “State of War” is not only about the heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people to the occupiers, about pain, doubts, and fear, but also about empathy, a sense of unity, and finding one’s identity. These texts are a mirror of our era, a fixed moment, a history that future generations of Ukrainians will study. We also examined the Ukrainian-language Internet portal Defense Express and its English-language version, which covers the war in Ukraine.

The main goal of our investigation is to explore the linguistic features of Ukrainian-language warfare discourse and strategies for its adequate translation into English.

1. Linguistic peculiarities of warfare discourse

War discourse is a collection of linguistic works created within the war sphere of communication, regulated by specific rules, traditions, and experience, and reflected in the choice of linguistic means. However, war discourse is aimed not only at reflecting war life but also at war events and everyday realities, objects, and phenomena. They are characterized by stylistic devices, neologisms, language play, euphemisms, to avoid negative connotations and soften narratives associated with loss of life, infrastructure destruction, typical of wartime discourse⁷.

Hodges A. defines war discourse as the use of language and social interaction as a mediating element in the outbreak, conduct, and disputation of armed political conflict. This entry identifies and outlines key elements of war discourse, which include call to arms rhetoric, the discursive construction of social identities, and the use of legitimating devices in

⁵ Воєнний стан: Антологія. Чернівці : Видавець Померанцев, 2023. 368 с.

⁶ State of War: Anthology. Chernivtsi : Publisher Svyatoslav Pomerantsev, 2023. 256 p.

⁷ Хар М.Є. Воєнний дискурс: процеси неологізації. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. Випуск 24. Том 1 с. 160–167, DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/tps2663-4880/2022.24.1.31>

language to make the actions associated with war appear appropriate, reasonable, and justifiable⁸.

Koroleva T. emphasizes such features of war discourse as its timeless relevance (military language has always existed, in each period it possessed the characteristic flavor of that time); its strongly expressed masculinity of semantics (service in the army and participation in combat actions were considered manifestations of masculinity); its close connection with other related types of discourse (military-political, military-patriotic), with those types of discourse that military discourse is related to at the linguistic level⁹.

Tsiorupa M. uses a term “warfare discourse”. We also distinguish the notions war discourse and warfare discourse according to their definitions: War discourse specifically focuses on the language and communication surrounding war, including how it is discussed, represented, and interpreted. It’s suitable when discussing the linguistic aspects and social interactions related to war. Warfare discourse emphasizes the actual fighting and military operations conducted during a war. It’s suitable when focusing on military tactics, strategies, and combat activities. So, in our research we apply the term “warfare discourse”¹⁰.

Based on the analyzed material, we identified the following thematic groups of warfare discourse:

1. military terms (names of weapons, names of armed forces, military units, regalia, and ranks).

2. Information front. In modern society, war and the information front are closely linked. The information front includes the use of propaganda and psychological warfare to influence public opinion. Media and cybersecurity, such as hacker attacks, play an important role in this process. Control over information and interaction with the public become important elements of strategy in conflicts where it is important to shape one’s own commentary on events and impressions of them. Thus, the information front determines how the conflict is perceived by the public and influences the development of events. The most frequent words which verbalize information front are:

пропаганда – propaganda,

⁸ Hodges Adam. War Discourse. *The International Encyclopedia of Language and Social Interaction*. Boston. 2015 <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118611463.wbielsi026>

⁹ Корольова Т., Соріч Р., Александрова О. Військовий дискурс та особливості його перекладу. *Науковий вісник Південноукраїнського національного педагогічного університету імені К. Д. Ушинського. Лінгвістичні науки* : збірник наук. праць. Одеса : Інформаційно-видавничий центр університету ім. К. Д. Ушинського, 2021. № 33. С. 372.

¹⁰ Цюрупа М. Науковий дискурс сучасної війни: військовознавство (полемологія) у системі сучасної системи України. *Українознавчий альманах*. Випуск 33. 2023. Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка. С. 93–103. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17721/2520-2626/2023.33.13>

інформаційна гігієна – information hygiene,
фабрика інтернет-тролів (провокаторів в інтернеті) – troll
factory,
ввести в оману – mislead,
боти – bots,
маніпуляція та спекуляція – manipulation and speculation,
фейк – fake,
дінфейк – deepfake,
хакерство – hacking,
перекручення фактів – jugglery,
інформаційна бульбашка – information bubble,
інформаційне військо – information army,
кібервійна – cyberwarfare.

3. Volunteerism and organizations. In modern conditions, volunteerism is a sociocultural phenomenon of Ukraine, its cultural brand, one of the elements of the national self-identification of the Ukrainian nation, a defining principle of the state's external and internal policies at the national and international levels¹¹. This group is represented by the words:

волонтери – volunteers,
волонтерський центр – volunteer center,
добровольчий батальйон – Ukrainian volunteer battalions,
гуманітарна допомога – humanitarian aid,
пожертвувати (кошти) – to donate,
надавати психологічну допомогу – provide psychological assistance,
збір ліків – collection of medicines,
допомога в евакуації людей – assistance in evacuating people,
доставити на передову – deliver to the front line.

4. Slogans in support of Ukraine. This group has become a distinct linguistic phenomenon during the war. These slogans are so popular that they are used on clothing, postage stamps, and in songs. Here are examples of some of them:

Доброго вечора, ми з України – Good evening, we are from Ukraine!
*руській военний корабль, йди на *** Russian warship, go f@ck*
yourself,
Україна – це Європа – Ukraine is a European country,
бути з Україною, підтримувати – Stand with Ukraine,
Будь сміливим, як Україна – Be brave like Ukraine,

¹¹ Горінов П., Драпушко Р. Волонтерська діяльність в Україні: соціально-правове дослідження: монографія. Київ : Державний інститут сімейної та молодіжної політики, 2022. 240 с.

Слава Україні! – Glory to Ukraine! Героям слава! – Glory to the Heroes! Слава нації! – Glory to the Nation! Смерть ворогам! – Death to the enemies!

It is worth noting that these slogans emphasize patriotism, national unity, and heroism.

Having processed the analyzed material, we identified the following linguistic characteristics of warfare discourse:

1. **High density of military terms.** Due to their variety, significant lexical difficulties arise during translation. It is worth noting that a term is a word or phrase of a specialized (scientific, technical) language, created, obtained, or borrowed for the precise expression of specialized concepts and the designation of specialized objects. The main function of a term is naming and defining a specific concept. In addition to the nominative function, terms also perform a communicative function (the use of terms facilitates communication among specialists in a particular field. They serve as a linguistic tool for information exchange within a specific community or group); cognitive (terms help in formulating and structuring knowledge. They indicate conceptual links and relationships between different elements of a discipline or field of knowledge); pragmatic (the use of terms can influence actions and decisions. This may include using terms to regulate behavior, resolve conflicts, or achieve certain goals)¹².

Military terms are classified into the following groups based on the number of components they consist of:

a) simple terms, composed of a single word (e.g., *арсенал – arsenal, зброя – weapon*). Typically, Ukrainian one-component terms have lexical equivalents that also remain one-component in the target language. Z.O. Dubinets distinguishes thematic groups among simple military terms:

- names of individuals associated with military affairs (*сержант – sergeant, полковник – colonel*);
- names of weapons, military equipment, and regalia (*карабін – carabine, каска – helmet*);
- names of armed forces, military units, strategies or tactics of combat operations and their consequences (*батальйон – battalion, дивізія – division*)¹³.

b) Derived terms, formed by affixation (e.g., *антипартизанський – anti-guerrilla, протиракетний – anti-missile*). The derivational system of

¹² Кікець І. До питання про деякі труднощі при перекладі термінів і шляхи їх подолання. *Вісник державного університету «Львівська політехніка»*. Львів : Львівська політехніка, 2000. № 402. С. 420.

¹³ Дубинець З.О. Військова лексика в романі Р. Іванчука «Мальви». *Вісник Харківського національного університету імені В.Н. Каразіна*. Харків. 2015. Вип. 73. С. 169

military terms is quite extensive in the Ukrainian language, unlike English. Typically, the source of derivatives is a noun: *танк-танкіст-танковий, мінер-мінний-минувати-протимінний*.

c) Complex terms, consisting of two words: *без'ядерна зона – non-nuclear zone, берегова оборона – coastal defense*.

d) Compound terms, consisting of two stems: *вогнемет – flamethrower, тепловізор – thermal imager, вибухопакет – explosive packet, вознеприсаси – ammunition*.

e) Multicomponent terms, consisting of several components: *засоби протиповітряної оборони – air defense means, загальні бойові втрати противника – total enemy combat losses*.

The morphological structure of English equivalents may remain the same as in Ukrainian or may change (see Table 1).

Table 1

Comparative analysis of morphological structure of Ukrainian military terms and their English correspondences

Morphological structure of a Ukrainian term	Ukrainian example	English example
Simple	гвинтівка полк війська озброєння	Rifle Regiment Troops weaponry, armor, equipage, armour
Derived	прикордонник піхотинець протиракетний підполковник бомбардувальник безпілотники	Border guard Foot soldier Anti-missile missile Lieutenant Colonel – bomber Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)
Complex	польовий шпиталь глибокий тил оборонні дії реактивний літак	field hospital heartland Defensive actions jet
Compound	вогнемет гранатомет автоцистерни бронезилет блокпост новобранець	flame thrower grenade launchers fuel tank flak jacket, bulletproof vest, body armor, flak jacket checkpoint recruit, rookie

Table 1 (continuance)

	військовополонений бронетранспортер тепловізор кулемет	prisoner of war armoured personnel carrier thermal imager machine gun, stutterer, shotgun
Multicomponent terms	засоби протиповітряної оборони Загальні бойові втрати противника Абсолютна висота скидання Агентурні розвідувальні дані Альтернативний маршрут тилового забезпечення База оперативного розгортання	anti-aircraft warfare systems, total combat losses of the enemy drop altitude human intelligence alternate supply route deployment operating base

Therefore, Ukrainian military terms demonstrate various morphological formation models, including:

- a) affixation (*передислокація* – redeployment, *протиракетний* – anti-missile, *запалка* – igniter, *зенітка* – anti-aircraft gun);
- b) compounding (*вибухопакет* – explosive packet, *вогнеприпаси* – ammunition);
- c) abbreviation (*БПЛА* – UAV, *ЗСУ* – Armed Forces of Ukraine).

We can conclude that simple Ukrainian terms mostly preserve their morphological structure when translated into English and remain simple. Derived Ukrainian terms completely change their structure, which is natural due to the different grammatical structures of the two languages. This also applies to compound terms, which may become two- or three-component in English translation. Complex Ukrainian terms may have the same components in English or be translated descriptively or through translation transformations. It should be noted that unlike Ukrainian terms, English terms often exhibit conversion: *міномет* – mortar, *вести мінометний вогонь* – to mortar).

2. A large number of abbreviated lexical units: *РСЗО* – реактивна система залпового вогню (Multiple Launch Rocket System), *ПВО* – повітряно-військова оборона (Air Defence), *РЗГ* – Ракетно-зенітна група (Surface-to-Air Missile), *НАТО* – NATO, *БМП* – бойова машина

nixomu (infantry fighting vehicle), ТРО – Територіальна оборона (Territorial Defense forces).

3. Emotional speech, where the subjective-emotional attitude of the author towards phenomena, events, concepts, and images is maximally expressed using oppositions such as “friend – foe”, “us – them”, which carry ontological perceptions regarding the binary structure of the world. Ukrainians’ attitude towards foreigners, enemies, Russians is absolutely negative. All lexemes depicting the hostile nation carry negative connotations: *орки* (orcs), *рашисти* (Russians), *москалі* (Muscovites), *кацани* (derogatory term for Russians), *окупанти* (occupants), *свинособаки* (literally “pig dogs” used as an insult), *русня* (derogatory term for Russians), etc. The hostile country is also verbalized with lexemes bearing negative connotations: *Оркистан* (Orcistan), *Кацанія* (Katsapia), *Московія* (Moskowie), *Раша* (Rasha), *болота* (swamps). It’s understandable that these examples may pose challenges in translation.

The strategy of discrediting is implemented in the discourse through tactics of mockery, accusation, and insult. Linguistically, this is expressed through nominations with pejorative coloring, particularly by using dysphemisms. For example: “Пуйло – вбивця”, “путін–хуйло”.

4. The use of narrow-professional vocabulary and jargon. Professional military terms can be considered as equivalents or analogs of military terminology, represented by semi-official words or phrases common in spoken professional circles, which are often not scientific designations of concepts¹⁴. Jargon (sociolect) is non-standard, informal, stylistically reduced, and functionally limited language used by military personnel to fulfill certain speech functions (expressive, evaluative, euphemistic, etc.)¹⁵. Examples include: *Карандаш – осколочний снаряд для гранатомета – РПГ-7* (Pencil – RPG-7 anti-tank grenade launcher), *Птичка – БПЛА* (Birdie – UAV), *Ночник або Глаза – прилад нічного бачення* (Night vision goggles – night vision device), *Нулі – перша лінія розмежування* (Zeroes – frontline), *ситуація ‘4.5.0.’ – значення в цій фразі дуже цікаве, адже вона означає все спокійно* (situation ‘4.5.0.’ – the meaning of this phrase is very interesting because it means ‘everything is calm’), *Трьохсотий – поранений у бою* (Three-hundredth – wounded in battle), *Двохсотий – вбитий у бою* (Two-hundredth – killed in battle). The emergence of jargon in war communication is primarily associated with a conspiratorial function. However, Levchenko T. notes that during wartime, military jargon becomes characteristic not only of a narrowly specialized language category but of a

¹⁴ Коваль О. П. Лінгвопрагматика терміносистеми тенісу в англійській мові : автореф. дис. ... канд. філол. наук : 10.02.04. Львів. 2014. 16 с.

¹⁵ Ставицька Л. О. Арго, жаргон, сленг: соціальна диференціація мови. Київ : Критика. 2005. 464 с.

much broader one, permeating almost all functional styles of modern Ukrainian literary language and colloquial speech in particular¹⁶.

So, the linguistic features of warfare discourse are aimed not only at enhancing the informational awareness of recipients but also at eliciting excessive emotionality and prompting reactions to the journalistic text and deeper reflection on the described contemporary events. Among them, we have noted: a high density of terms; a large number of abbreviated lexical units; emotional speech; the use of narrow-professional vocabulary, jargon; extremely clear and precise communication.

2. Peculiarities of translating Ukrainian warfare discourse into English

Let's consider the peculiarities of translating military terms from Ukrainian into English at the grammatical and lexical levels.

The most frequent grammatical differences between Ukrainian and English terms are:

1. Changing the genitive case in Ukrainian to the nominative case in English:

Очищення маршруту – route clearance;

Вивчення місцевості – terrain analysis;

2. Changing word combinations in Ukrainian to single words in English:

Вибухова речовина – explosive;

Визначення місцезнаходження – locating;

Воююча сторона – belligerent;

3. Changing number (plural to singular):

Базові розвідувальні дані – basic intelligence;

Бойові можливості – combat potential;

Вирішальні цілі – decisive point;

4. Removing prepositions from the translation because English terms typically have non-prepositional bonds:

Боєприпас з лазерним наведенням – laser guided weapon;

Вогонь по незапланованій цілі – opportunity fire;

Донесення про обстановку – situation report;

Запит на розвідку – intelligence request;

5. Substituting a part of speech:

Боєприпаси, що не вибухнули – unexploded explosive ordnance (changing the verb «вибухнули» to the past participle “unexploded”);

¹⁶ Левченко Т.М. Жаргонна лексика у військовій тематичі сучасної української преси. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія.* 2019. № 39. Том 3. С. 115–120. DOI <https://doi.org/10.32841/2409-1154.2019.39.3.26>

Бойова діяльність – *battle distance* (changing the adjective «бойова» to the noun “battle”);

Ефективна зона – *effectiveness area* (changing the adjective in Ukrainian to a noun in English);

6. Differences in prefixes:

Прикордонник – *border guard*. The prefix *при-* is not preserved in English but becomes a separate word. The prefix *де-* is preserved in word combinations: *дегазаційна речовина* – *decontamination agent*, *деактиваційні речовини* – *nuclear decontaminant*. However, the term «деблокування» in target language has a completely different equivalent: *raising a blockade*.

Overall, differences in term structure at the grammatical level do not hinder achieving translation equivalence because they allow expressing identical categorical meanings in a source language and a target language.

At the lexical level, difficulties in translating military terms arise from synonyms, neologisms, professional terminology, and jargon.

Synonyms in military terminology refer to terms belonging to the same denotation, but may have identical or closely related meanings, differing in structure (simple words, compounds, abbreviations, phrases), origin (native or borrowed lexemes), and usage. During our research, we found that synonymy in Ukrainian military terminology is not as developed as in English. For example:

The term «бойові (воєнні) дії» can be translated into English as *warfare, combat, fight, or hostilities*;

The term «битва» has three synonyms in a target language: *battle, fight, operation*;

The term «вторгнення» can be translated as *invasion, intrusion, or penetration*.

Synonymous terms like «атака» and «наступ» have several synonyms in English: *Attack, charge, onslaught, offensive*;

Surrender, capitulation for «капітуляція»;

Weaponry, armor, equipage, armour for «озброєння».

The Commission on Journalistic Ethics has prepared recommendations for the correct coverage of Russia’s armed aggression against Ukraine, with assistance from the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. Synonymous terms in this article have explanations regarding their usage. For example:

The concepts of «війна», «збройна агресія», and «вторгнення» are used as follows: “вторгнення” refers to a narrower concept, describing an armed attack by Russian forces on the territory of Ukraine, while «збройна агресія» encompasses both invasion and actions not directly related to crossing the state border. It is essential to remember that Russia’s war against Ukraine has been ongoing since 2014, and on February 24, 2022,

a new stage of this war began – a large-scale invasion. «Бомбардування» refers to enemy attacks using aviation by dropping bombs and other ordnance. Synonyms for «бомбардування» can be “авіаналіт” or “авіаудар”. The term “обстріл” is used when the enemy fires artillery or mortars¹⁷.

Overall, synonyms in military terminology create challenges in translation due to their nuanced meanings and context-dependent usage.

Lysyckyna I.O. emphasizes the importance of considering the connotative meaning of terms: the terms “bombardment”, “shelling”, and “bombing” may be translated as «бомбардування», «обстріл», and «бомбування», respectively, but these terms have different semantic connotations. “Shelling” refers to artillery fire, an act of attacking a place with artillery (which fires explosive shells), while “bombardment” is a general term covering both types of attacks¹⁸.

Let’s provide examples when the same word in Ukrainian is translated differently in English: «головне управління» – *central administration*, «головний аеродром» – *main aerodrome*, «головний командир» – *supported commander*. The Ukrainian adjective «головний» has three synonyms in a target language: two absolute ones (*main*, *central*) and one contextual (*supported*).

Terminological phrases with the adjective «десантний» also have several synonyms in МП: «десантна група» – *landing group*, «десантне зосередження» – *marshalling*, «десантне судно» – *assault craft*. The term “десантування” is translated as “airdrop”.

The adjective «військовий» is translated with synonyms in different terminological phrases: «військовий злочин» – *war crime*, «військове мистецтво» – *operational art*, «військова техніка» – *military equipment*. In the phrase “військове формування”, it is not translated at all¹⁹.

Thus, synonyms can be useful for avoiding repetitions in speech or for using terms that better fit a specific context or style of expression. However,

¹⁷ КЖЕ запустила словник коректної термінології воєнного часу. URL: <https://imi.org.ua/news/kzhe-zapustyly-slovyuk-korektnoyi-terminologiyivoyennogo-chasu-i44749> (дата звернення: 14.09.2023)

¹⁸ Лисичкіна І.О., Лисичкіна О.О. Сучасна військова лексика в аспекті англо-українського перекладу. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. Одеса. 2022. № 57 с. 190–194. DOI <https://doi.org/10.32841/2409-1154.2022.57.44>

¹⁹ Українсько-французько-англійський міжвидовий словник з тактики та логістики. *Dictionnaire interarmées de termes tactiques et logistiques ukrainienfrançais-anglais*: [в 2-х т.] Київський національний університет ім. Тараса Шевченка, Військовий ін-т, Центр розробки Доктрини застосування Збройних Сил Французької Республіки; [за ред. В.В. Балабіна та Р. Гардера]. Київ : Логос, 2007. 651 с.

it should be noted that terms are not always identical in meaning or usage, and they may have nuances in meaning or usage.

Professionalisms and jargons can also create challenges for a translator. By professionalism, we mean words and phrases characteristic of the speech of a particular professional group. Outside of this professional environment, these words are not always understandable or of interest. A significant portion of professionalism consists of informal colloquial substitutes for terms.

Military jargon refers to non-standard, informal, stylistically lowered, and functionally limited language used by military personnel for specific speech functions (expressive, evaluative, euphemistic, etc.). Unlike expressively neutral professionalisms, jargonisms are emotionally charged words. It's worth noting that jargon vocabulary is highly variable over time.

The new language of war – *arrival, forefront, cotton* – is by no means universal, especially because Russian missiles are experienced differently by individuals from Kharkiv or Mykolaiv or residents of relatively safe regions. In a target language, the jargonisms *arrival, forefront, cotton* are translated literally. In our opinion, this is not a very successful option because for an English-speaking reader, “arrival” means “the time when someone or something arrives at a place”, and “cotton” refers to cloth made from plant fibers.

Another translation option for the word “прильот” (arrival) could be an example: *«Кілька разів ми спостерігали за прильотами»* (*We often watched missile strikes*). In this case, the jargonism “arrival” is translated into a term that specifies the meaning: “missile strike”, which would be understandable to an English-speaking reader.

The professionalism “нуль” (zero) refers to the line of demarcation between warring parties. *«Невдовзі зі своєї області потрапив на нуль»* (*Soon after, he was sent to the first line of contact with the enemy*). In our opinion, the translation is entirely appropriate. A translator used descriptive translation, avoiding the lexeme “zero”.

Let's consider the example of translating the professionalism “вантаж 200” (cargo 200): *“It's like when A soldier who was killed in the war is to be brought home, and you speak mentally with him, alive, until your final farewell”*. The descriptive translation is relevant. All components that make up the meaning of this professionalism are reproduced in a target language: “killed soldier”.

It should be noted that until recently, the professionalism “вантаж 200” (cargo 200) was unfamiliar to an average citizen. This term originated from the war in Afghanistan, where the weight of a zinc coffin with a body was approximately 200 kilograms. Now everyone understands that it refers to the fallen soldiers. Recently, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of

Ukraine initiated the replacement of the Soviet name for the fallen soldiers “вантаж 200” (cargo 200) with «На щиті» (On the shield). This is an allusion to the Latin expression *Aut cum scuto, aut in scuto* (“With the shield or on the shield”), which means to return either victorious or dead. Some linguists believe that “На щиті” (On the shield) is a more solemn marking, but «вантаж 200» (cargo 200) is a clear visual image.

Here’s an example where the professionalism is translated into a term: «Листки» *лежать всюду / PFM 1 mines are everywhere*. «Листок» refers to the PFM-1 anti-personnel blast mine of Soviet production. It can be green or olive in color, which gave it such an unofficial name. The official term is the PFM-1 anti-personnel mine. In a target language, the professionalism is reproduced with the same abbreviation.

So, a notable feature of Ukrainian military professionalisms and jargons is that they are understood not only within specific professional circles but also among those who are not part of that environment. Sometimes, to convey the sense or idea, it’s not enough to translate them literally. Translation options may include descriptive translation, generalization, and so on. Context also plays an important role in choosing the best translation technique.

As noted by Lytovchenko O., military vocabulary, as one of the components of the lexical subsystem, evolves constantly and continuously, with the most noticeable changes occurring during periods of societal transformation. Therefore, with the onset of the war in Ukraine, neologisms constantly appear in the language. In the Ukrainian-language military discourse, neologisms are predominantly represented in colloquial and journalistic styles²⁰. We have identified the lexical-semantic groups of military neologisms:

a) Neologisms to denote occupiers: *сепару (separatists), ватники (pro-Russian sympathizers), свинособаки (swine dogs), орки (orcs), орда (horde), рашисти (Russians), русня (Russians), ваньки (Vanyks), пушкіністи (Putinists), чмоні (abusers)*, which have acquired a pronounced negative semantic coloring. Alongside the terms *росія (Russia), російська федерація (Russian Federation)*, words like *мордор (Mordor), раша (Rus)* have started being used, with the name itself being written with a lowercase letter. Neologisms *рашизм (Rusism) and путлер (Putler)*, formed by compounding, characterize the ideology and practice of aggressive Russian chauvinism.

²⁰ Литовченко І. Динамічні процеси у військовій лексиці української мови (назви зброї, амуніції, споруд) : монографія ; за ред. проф. Ж. В. Колоїз. Кривий Ріг : Вид. Р. А. Козлов, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.31812/0564/515>

b) Neologisms to denote the location of combat operations: *нуль* (*zero*) (the line of contact with the enemy), *передок* (*forefront*) (the first line of defense of the army).

c) Neologisms to denote military clothing: *пиксель* (*pixel*) (Ukrainian military uniform in the form of “squares”).

d) Neologisms to denote weapons or equipment: *нептун* (*Neptune*) (*Ukrainian anti-ship cruise missile*), *джавелін* (*Javelin*) (*portable anti-tank missile system*), *байрактар* (*Bayraktar*) (*Turkish strike tactical medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle*), *птачки* (*birds*), *очі* (*eyes*), and *ночніки* (*night vision devices*) (*drones and night vision devices*), *бандеромобіль* (*Banderamobile*) (*combat vehicles of the Armed Forces of Ukraine*).

e) Neologisms to denote the results of combat actions: hitting an enemy missile into a civilian or military structure has been called «*приліт*» (*arrival*), an explosion on Russian or temporarily occupied territory is called «*бавовна*» (*cotton*); the term “часткова мобілізація” (partial mobilization) in Russia has entered our language as a neologism «*могілізація*» (*mogilization*).

On March 20, 2022, a highly popular online dictionary of slang words and phrases in the English-speaking world, Urban Dictionary, introduced the word “Chornobaivka” as a synonym for the established expression “Spawn kill”. To convey the meaning of “Spawn kill”, one could probably say: “to repeatedly bash one’s head against the wall”. Ultimately, the English-speaking world also saw the emergence of the verb “Chornobaivtes” – “to Chornobaivka”. This derogatory term refers to the actions of people who persistently repeat the same mistake, resulting in the same negative outcome.

On June 21, 2022, the American media organization specializing in political journalism, Politico, documented the word “Chornobaivtes” in an English-language guide to Ukrainian war slang, noting that the word originates from the name of the Ukrainian village of Chornobaivka in Kherson Oblast, which Russian forces repeatedly attempted to capture unsuccessfully.²¹

The most common ways of creating neologisms in Ukrainian-language media texts include derivational morphology, such as telescoping (e.g., *rashists*, *putler*), semantic derivation (e.g., *orks*, *chmoni*), and borrowing (e.g., *javelin*, *Mavic*, *Bayraktar*, etc.). Borrowings from English military terminology enter the Ukrainian-language warfare discourse through transliteration, and therefore, transliteration is maintained in reverse

²¹ Чорнобаїти і відукраїнити: сленг війни шириться світом. URL: <https://armyinform.com.ua/2022/06/24/chornobayity-i-vidukrayinyty-slengvijny-shyrytsya-svitom/> (дата звернення: 14.09.2023)

translation. Additionally, transformation by addition may be applied, such as adding the lexeme “drone” to “Mavic”.

When translating Ukrainian-language discourse into English, the translator must also be familiar with English neologisms. The Ukrainian linguist Slyvka L. explored a translation of military neologisms²². A common way of creating them is through abbreviation, such as *MRAP* (*Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected*), *UAV* (*Unmanned Aerial Vehicle*), *UGV* (*Unmanned Ground Vehicle*), and acronyms, such as *BASE* (*British Aerospace Systems and Equipment*), *DISCO* (*Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office*), *ERA* (*Explosive Reactive Armour*).

In addition to abbreviation, English neologisms are formed using affixes (e.g., *fighter – aircraft – fighter jet*), prefixes (e.g., *propellant – rocket fuel*, *propulsion – powerplant*), compound terms (e.g., *backseater – officer engaged in radar interception*), blending (e.g., *COMARTY – artillery commander*), semantic extension (“*Black Hawk*” – *multi-purpose helicopter*).

Terms and neologisms, even when presented as abbreviations and contractions, may have several variations in Ukrainian, including HIMARS being rendered as XИМАРС, ГИМАРС, ХАЙМАРС. It should be noted that new lexical units in the military sphere (names of weapons, etc.) may be reproduced in Ukrainian employing the original spelling of the term. Thus, terms like Javelin, Bayraktar, HIMARS, ATACMS, NASAMS are used in their original Latin script in Ukrainian texts, especially in mass media sources.

For instance, *У переліку допомоги за останні дні від ФРН – один танк для розмінування WISENT-1 (усього 12), 2380 артилерійських снарядів калібру 155 міліметрів (усього 21910), по два тягачі 8x8 HX81 та напівпричепи (разом 81 і 76 відповідно). The military package includes a WISENT-1 demining tank (12 provided in total), 2,380 152-mm artillery shells (21,910 in total), and two 8x8 HX81 tractors and semi-trailers (81 and 76 respectively)*²³.

When translating English neologisms, Chernovaty L.M. notes that the most common techniques include contextual lexical and semantic substitutions. When direct translation is not possible due to differences in lexical-syntactic combinations between English and Ukrainian, modulation is employed. This method is especially characteristic when translating terms of affixal origin, compound terms, as well as terms of conversional and lexical-semantic origin. Adequate translation of English innovative military discourse terms into Ukrainian requires knowledge of the military field

²² Сливка Л. З. Проблеми перекладу українською мовою англomовних термінів-неологізмів у військовій галузі. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2022 № 54. URL: <https://doi.org/10.32841/2409-1154.2022.54.51> С. 212–216.

²³ [<https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2023/11/22/7429848/>].

related to the translation, an understanding of the content of English terms, and knowledge of terminology in the native language²⁴.

Thus, when translating military terms, certain lexical and semantic difficulties may arise, which are associated with the structural characteristics of the terms, the functioning of synonyms among them, the emergence of neologisms, as well as with professionalism and jargon.

All these peculiarities involve different translation techniques.

1. **transliteration or transcription.** This method is usually used for the names of American or Turkish weaponry. They can be categorized as ergonyms. According to Yu. Karpenko's definition, this group of vocabulary encompasses names of organizations, production and social associations – from parties, societies, factories, educational institutions to cinemas, cooperatives, shops, firms, etc²⁵. Names of Turkish and Iranian enterprises manufacturing modern weaponry have given names to this weaponry: Shahed, Bayraktar. Here are examples of how ergonyms are reproduced in English translation:

*...Масштабні атаки іранськими дронами також були й в травні, коли рашисти випускали по 35–36 «**мopedів**», водночас рекордна кількість була випущена окупантами у ніч на 28 травня, коли окупанти атакували одразу 54 дронами типу **Shahed**...There were also large-scale attacks by Iranian drones in May, when the Russians launched 35–36 "**flying mopeds**", while a record number was launched by the occupiers on the night of May 28, when the occupiers attacked at once with 54 **Shahed drones**²⁶.*

In colloquial language, drones are called “mopeds” because of the sound similar to a moped engine. In both languages, the word is written in quotation marks. The translation adds the lexeme “flying” to specify the concept. It is noteworthy that “Shahed” remains in its original spelling in Ukrainian, but in English, the word “drones” is added”. Another piece of equipment, a suicide tank, is translated in English using a combined translation: “kamikaze” – “suicide” using a synonym, and “tank” – “vehicle” through generalization. Tanks-kamikazes are tanks that cannot shoot but are equipped with a large explosive charge: *...Рашисти почали використовувати "**танки-камікадзе**": невдала атака Т-54/55, яка*

²⁴ Дубовий К.С., Черноватий Л.М. Проблеми перекладу українською мовою англomовних термінів-неологізмів у військовій галузі. *Stati Nascendi. Теоретичні та прагматичні проблеми перекладознавства* : Збірник студентських статей. Вип. 15. Харків : НТМТ, 2014. С. 82–86.

²⁵ Карпенко О. Ю. Проблематика когнітивної ономастики: монографія. Одеса : Астропринт, 2006. 324 с.

²⁶ Рашисти знову випустили десятки Shahed по Україні, більшість з них було знищено нашою ППО. URL: https://defence-ua.com/news/rashisti_znovu_vipustili_desjatki_shahed_po_ukrajini_bilshist_z_nih_bulo_znischeno_nashoju_ppo-11945.html

говорить про головний недолік / *The russians began using **suicide vehicles** based on the T-54/T-55 tanks.*

However, this term can also be translated by transcription:*The video appears to depict the destruction of a specifically booby-trapped “kamikaze tank”. Or: This can be compared to the outcome of another russian “kamikaze tank” based on the T-54/T-55.*

2. **Translation transformations** are also widely used. Among the most commonly used transformations in our research are grammatical transformations of addition and deletion.

Addition:

*повітряна тривога – air raid siren, civil defence siren,
кулеметна установка – mounted machine gun,
винищувач – fighter jet,
тактична аптечка – tactical first aid kit,
ставити мітки – place tracking markers,*

Deletion:

*список осіб, яким дозволено доступ – access list,
кількість загиблих на війні – casualties, fatalities,
відступ військ – withdrawal,
припинення вогню – ceasefire,
особовий склад – personnel,
броньований транспортний засіб – armored vehicle,
бійці АТО – soldiers.*

Lexical transformations are represented by specification and generalization. **Specification:**

зенітно-ракетний комплекс – surface-to-air missile.

The term “surface-to-air missile” specifies and elaborates on the concept of “зенітно-ракетний комплекс”, indicating a specific type of missile used in this complex and designed for firing against airborne targets from the surface (ground) upward (into the sky).

Generalization:

*навчання з бойовою стрільбою – live exercise,
тактична розвідка – tactical reconnaissance.*

In this case, the term «тактична розвідка» refers to a specific type of military activity, while the translation “tactical reconnaissance” defines a broader class of military operations related to gathering information at the tactical level. “Tactical reconnaissance” may involve various methods and types of intelligence, such as scouting enemy positions, intercepting communication, identifying geographical features, and so on. Another example of translation by generalization: «...вийхати з тих місцин уночі неможливо через режим світломаскування» was translated as “...it was impossible to leave those places at night due to the curfew”. Here,

“світломаскування” is translated as “curfew”, indicating that curfew is a broader term encompassing restrictions not only related to lighting but also to movement and activity during specific times.

Generalization and specification as well as antonymic translation are often considered to be contextual substitution, the constituent of lexicogrammatical transformations²⁷.

Antonymic translation:

самовільно відсутній – absent without leave,

There are other translation techniques:

Lexical equivalent:

блиндаж – digout,

комендантська година – curfew,

катапультування – ejection,

Word-for-word translation:

польовий шпиталь – field hospital,

повномасштабне вторгнення – full-scale invasion,

калашні магазини – Kalashnikov magazines,

панічна атака – panic attack,

Military abbreviations also appear in the research material. Karaban V.I. suggests the following methods for **translating abbreviations**²⁸:

- transcoding (transcribing or transliterating) the abbreviation;

- translation by the corresponding full word or phrase:

ТРО – Territorial defence forces,

БК – supply of ammunition,

- translating with the corresponding abbreviation:

Сухий пайок – MRE (meal, ready to eat),

Позашляховичок – SUV.

Loan translation:

Розминування – demining.

Thus, the most common techniques for translating Ukrainian military terms include transliteration, lexical equivalent, deletion and addition transformations. Abbreviations and acronyms are reproduced through various methods and techniques, with abbreviation decoding being predominant. The choice of translation technique is influenced by both linguistic and extralinguistic factors and is based on the prevalence and usage of the term, with new concepts potentially having several

²⁷ Білозерська Л.П., Возненко Н.В., Раденька С.В. Термінологія та переклад : навч. посібник для студентів філологічного напрямку підготовки. Вінниця : Нова книга, 2010. С. 49.

²⁸ Карабан В.І. Переклад англійської наукової і технічної літератури : навчальний посібник. Вінниця, 2001. С. 132.

synonymous equivalents. All methods are relevant and contribute to achieving equivalence in translation.

The greatest difficulties in translation arise from multi-component terms. According to Mosiyevych L., multi-component terms are those consisting of three or more components. They are necessary as they provide a more precise and specific meaning due to dependent words that clarify the meaning of the main term lexeme. They belong to analytical terms, have clear definitions, and are characterized by semantic integrity and stability²⁹. Difficulties arise because the components of a term and their connection can vary. The components of a term can belong to completely different spheres of science and technology or be represented by different parts of speech.

In our opinion, the phenomenon of a large number of multi-component terms is associated with the fact that military science encompasses several types of military terminology:

- Tactical, which includes the theory and practice of preparing for and conducting combat operations by formations, units (ships), and units of various branches of the armed forces, types of troops (naval forces), and special forces on land, in the air, and at sea;
- Military-organizational, related to the organizational structure of the armed forces;
- Military-technical, related to military equipment and weapons;
- Terminology by types of armed forces;
- Terminology by types of troops.

The analysis of the military terminological system has allowed us to identify productive terminological models. The most numerous groups consist of three-component terms, which are formed according to the following models:

- Adjective + Noun + Noun: *можливості армійської авіації* – *army aviation strength*; *навчання з бойовою стрільбою* – *live exercise*;
- Noun + Adjective + Noun: *army aviation strength*, *live exercise*;
- Noun + Noun + Noun: *наказ на відкриття вогню* – *fire order*;
- Adjective + Adjective + Noun: *наземна загальновійськова складова* – *land combined arms component*, *наземна тактична група* – *land task force*.

As the analysis has shown, the group of three-component terms is based on two-component terms, characterized by close structural and semantic

²⁹ Мосієвич Л. В. Запорізький національний університет Труднощі перекладу англійських багатокомпонентних термінів з машинобудування українською мовою. *Вчені записки Таврійського національного університету імені В.І. Вернадського, серія «Філологія. Журналістика»*. 2022. Т. 33 (72). № 5. С. 30. DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2710-4656/2022.5.2/06>

relationships. The use of a noun as the core element in the final position is typical for all types of three-component terms.

Four-component nominative units are represented less in the studied terminology. Their derivation is mainly based on three-component term-phrases. Other models of four-component term-phrases are formed by adding adjectives (participles), nouns, and adverbs to three-component terms.

Multi-component terms consist of a core component (CC) and one or more left modifiers (LM). For English multi-component terms with typical left deployment, dependent components located to the left of the core component are characteristic, while for Ukrainian multi-component terms, the opposite, right deployment, is typical. This fact should be taken into account during the translation of multi-component terms.

Therefore, the analysis of the studied material has shown that military terminology consists of a large number of multi-component terms, namely three- and four-component terms. We have identified the following features of their translation:

1) Multi-component terms are rarely translated literally: *зброя масового ураження* – *weapons of mass destruction*.

2) Usually, they are translated from right to left, starting with the last component: *група підтримки на гелікоптерах* – *helicopter support team*. If there is a preposition in the source language, it does not transfer to the target language, as English tends to have non-prepositional bonds. Another example: *зона розпізнавання цілі ППО* – *air defence identification zone*. The abbreviation in the target language is not preserved.

3) Mostly multi-component terms do not maintain the same number of components in the target language. A translator may use deletion:

військовий район особливої важливості – *military interest area*;
військові дії в межах населеного пункту – *military operations on urban terrain*;

військові запаси матеріальних засобів – *military stores*;

вогонь по незапланованій цілі – *opportunity fire*;

група забезпечення наземних сил – *land support group*.

In some cases, significant deletion occurs: *децентралізоване використання легкої авіації сухопутних військ* – *decentralized employment*. A five-component term becomes a two-component term in the target language.

Some three-component terms significantly change their form, becoming one-component terms. In the target language, only the main noun with a principal semantic load is reproduced:

зставлення розвідувальних даних – *correlation*;

джерело розвідувальних даних – *source*;

здатність до тривалих дій – sustainability.

It should be noted that the term “sustainability” has gained great popularity and high nominative density in the modern global space. However, seeing it in this context is very unexpected: Sustainability – the ability of a force to maintain the necessary level of combat power for the duration required to achieve its objectives.

4) Several terms are translated through addition:

забезпечення наземним транспортом – ground transportation supply support. A three-component term in the source language becomes a four-component term in the target language.

5) In some terms, the adjective carrying specifying information may have several translation options. For example:

загальна авіаційна підтримка – indirect air support;

загальне керівництво операціями – overall control of operations;

загальна підтримка інженерних військ – general engineer support.

Thus, based on the structural analysis of multi-component terms, we can conclude that this terminology is developing dynamically and is currently in a state of searching for the most optimal ways of term formation. The structure of term phrases is diverse. When translated into English, a lot of multi-component terms do not contain the same number of components.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the researched material, we have identified certain linguistic peculiarities of a warfare discourse, namely: a high density of military terms; a large number of abbreviated lexical units; emotive speech, jargons, neologisms. We classified Ukrainian military terms by structure into simple, complex, derived, and multi-component terms.

Such formation ways are typical for Ukrainian military terms: affixation, compounding, abbreviation, derivation. We can conclude that simple Ukrainian terms mostly preserve their morphological structure when translated into English and remain simple. Derived Ukrainian terms completely change their structure, which is natural due to the different grammatical structures of the two languages. This also applies to compound terms, which in English translation can become two- or three-component terms. Complex Ukrainian terms may have the same components in English, or they may be translated descriptively or through translation transformations.

When translating multi-component terms, translation can be done sequentially, from left to right, or vice versa, with the nuclear component at the end of the phrase. The number of components may remain the same, decrease, or increase through grammatical transformations of omission and addition.

We investigated grammatical differences in military terms between the source language and the target language. The most common discrepancies include: changing the form from genitive case in Ukrainian to the form of the common case in English, changing a word in Ukrainian to a phrase in English, changing the number (singular to plural), adding a preposition in the translation, replacing a part of speech of one of the components of the term, replacing the base composition in the source language with a phrase in the target language.

Among the main translation techniques we identified lexical equivalent, word-for-word translation, grammatical transformations of addition and omission, and transliteration. The dominant method of translation is by lexical equivalent.

We found out that Ukrainian military terminology is actively enriched with neologisms. The most common translation methods for neologism terms include contextual lexical-semantic substitutions and transliteration. Among military terms, we identified professionalisms and jargon. Translation options for them may include descriptive translation, generalization, etc. Context also plays an important role in choosing the best translation technique.

SUMMARY

The study explores warfare discourse, its linguistic characteristics, and methods of reproduction in English. We selected an optimal definition of a warfare discourse and described its differences from military and war discourses. Among the linguistic features, we have identified the density of military terms, synonyms, abbreviations, jargon, and neologisms. Much attention was paid to the core of a warfare discourse – military terms. Morphological analysis of Ukrainian military terms has been conducted. We revealed that multi-component terms create the greatest translation challenges. All these characteristics determine the choice of specific translation strategies. The main translation techniques include: transcoding, translation by lexical equivalent, word-for-word translation, specification, generalization, addition, omission.

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