

## CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH VOCABULARY OF MILITARY SPHERE IN CONTEMPORARY MEDIA INTO UKRAINIAN

---

Savina Yu. O.

DOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-557-0-11>

### INTRODUCTION

The vocabulary used in the media not only reflects but also shapes national security, influencing how threats are perceived and conveyed to the public. Examining this discourse provides valuable insights into the priorities and concerns of both government and society<sup>1</sup>. From a linguistic perspective, analyzing the vocabulary of the military sphere in contemporary English media reveals key themes and crucial aspects of how war is portrayed. The increasing presence of military topics in the media due to armed conflicts, security threats, and international operations necessitates accurate and precise translation of military vocabulary.

The composition of modern military vocabulary is not set. It is constantly changing due to the obsolescence of certain words, creating new lexical units in the process of reorganization of the armed forces, the emergence of new types of weapons, military equipment, and new methods of warfare<sup>2</sup>. There is a need for the unification of military vocabulary, as many such units are borrowed from English, especially within the context of Ukraine's cooperation with NATO and other international organizations. Inconsistent or incorrect translations can lead to misunderstandings in official documents, media reports, and public discourse. Hence, rapid technological advancements in the military sphere introduce new lexical units and concepts that require timely adaptation into Ukrainian.

In addition to this, the influence of media on public perception makes it crucial to ensure that military vocabulary is translated in a way that is both understandable and contextually appropriate for the audience. Today,

---

<sup>1</sup> Zaiats L. Conceptual space of vocabulary in the sphere of national security in contemporary English media: case study of publications on war in Ukraine. *Актуальні питання гуманітарних наук*. 2024. № 77. Т. 1. С. 225.

<sup>2</sup> Пуш О. М., Гасюк Н. В. Особливості перекладу військової термінології. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2002. № 58. С. 306.

communication is becoming the most crucial part, especially when it comes to delivering the facts, and the accuracy of the information provided also plays a significant role in shaping public perception of the situation<sup>3</sup>. In such a view, inadequate translation of military vocabulary in media can lead to several significant consequences, in particular, confusion, leading to unnecessary fear or panic among the public. For example, mistranslating *tactical withdrawal* as *vidcmyn* might wrongly imply a defeat rather than a strategic move. Also, inaccurate translations can distort official statements, potentially escalating conflicts between nations. If journalists or analysts misunderstand and misrepresent military actions due to incorrect translations, the public and policymakers may develop misguided opinions, leading to poor decision-making. At the same time, deliberate or accidental misinterpretation of military language can be exploited for propaganda purposes, influencing public perception to favor one side over another.

Thus, the study of translation challenges in the process of rendering military vocabulary in contemporary media is essential for effective communication, accurate reporting, and maintaining linguistic integrity in the Ukrainian language.

### 1. Military vocabulary within specialized vocabulary

Military vocabulary belongs to specialized vocabulary, the component of a specialized language. Specialized language is a field of language aimed at unambiguous and indisputable communication in the relevant professional field; it is a set of all language means used in a professional sphere of communication to ensure understanding between specialists<sup>4</sup>.

Specialized language has certain characteristics. Each of the specialized languages has its own traditions that have developed historically, therefore it exhibits its own peculiarities, which are related not only to the specialty, but also to linguistic expression. The following characteristic features of specialized language have been identified in the linguistic literature: 1) close connection with a certain scientific field; 2) a specific set of language units; 3) selection and use of linguistic structures of commonly used vocabulary within the specialized language; 4) adherence to the norms of the literary language at the level of morphology, vocabulary, syntax and text organization;

---

<sup>3</sup> Setiawana A., Nurmandi A., Purnomo E. P., Muhammad A. Disinformation and Miscommunication in Government Communication in Handling COVID-19 Pandemic. *Webology*. 2021. Vol. 18. No. 1. P. 203.

<sup>4</sup> Hoffman L. *Kommunikationsmittel Fachsprache. Eine Einführung*. Tübingen: Günter Narr, 1985. P. 53.

5) interregional nature of specialized languages; 6) presence of oral and written forms<sup>5</sup>.

Specialized vocabulary is words or word combinations that nominate objects and concepts belonging to different spheres of human labor activity and are not commonly used. The boundaries of specialized vocabulary groups are fragile and unclear, and the transitions of language units from one group to another are barely noticeable<sup>6</sup>, so the issues of their classification and the development of final criteria for this still require research. Special vocabulary is characterized by the following important features: 1) secondary use of lexical units developing on the basis of their initial general use; 2) special formation of artificial designations; 3) limited scope of use; 4) impossibility of direct translation into other languages; 5) impossibility of arbitrary replacement of individual elements without agreement with the tradition of the field; 6) peculiar attitude to such linguistic phenomena as polysemy, antonymy; 7) increased denotative connection<sup>7</sup>.

Military vocabulary, like the vocabulary of any other branch of science and practice, belongs to the peripheral layers of the vocabulary of a particular language, but what distinguishes it from other vocabularies is that it has more similarities with common one. This is explained by the fact that large masses of people are constantly involved in the sphere of military affairs, therefore military vocabulary has a wider scope of application compared to the vocabularies of other special spheres<sup>8</sup>. In modern society, the media cover various events, including military conflicts, so politicians, journalists, and ordinary citizens often use military vocabulary, the use of which is no longer limited to times of war and military actions and in everyday use by the specialists in the military field<sup>9</sup>.

Military vocabulary is understood as a set of military terms, conceptually and functionally related to the field of military specialized affairs, common to all troops and all categories of personnel<sup>10</sup>. In other words, military vocabulary

---

<sup>5</sup> 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. С. 22–23.

<sup>6</sup> Бондарчук К. С., Чумаченко О. А. Функції і способи презентації спеціальної лексики в українській художній літературі (на матеріалі романів Павла Загребельного). *Вісник Університету імені Альфреда Нобеля. Серія «Філологічні науки»*. 2020. № 2 (20). С. 151.

<sup>7</sup> Павлова О. Терміни, професіоналізми і номенклатурні знаки (до проблеми класифікації спеціальної лексики). *Вісник Нац. ун-ту «Львівська політехніка»*. Серія «Проблеми української термінології». 2008. № 620. С. 49.

<sup>8</sup> Левицька Н. Особливості репрезентації німецьких військових термінів в перекладі. *Актуальні проблеми філології та перекладознавства*. 2024. № 32. С. 32.

<sup>9</sup> Поліщук О. С., Бондаренко Т. Б., Алиєва А. Д. Військова лексика як різновид спеціальної лексики в англійських та українських ЗМІ. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2022. № 23. Т. 1. С. 300.

<sup>10</sup> The International Institute for Strategic Studies. The Military Balance. London Office, 2018. P. 23.

includes words and phrases denoting military concepts, that is, words directly related to military actions, army, etc., as well as scientific and technical words and word combinations used with military concepts<sup>11</sup>.

Military vocabulary usually includes words and phrases that convey specific military concepts related to the armed forces, military affairs, etc. The military sphere also includes words or phrases that are used to denote a certain special concept that belongs to a particular section of military science or military equipment. Generally, it includes special names that have simple or complex formal structure (word combinations), are related to a certain concept from the field of military affairs (military science, technology, troops, etc.) and have the same “military”, “combat” in their semantic structure. Moreover, the sphere of armament and technical equipment of the army determines the use of thematic groups of other industry subsystems in the military vocabulary. Thus, the military vocabulary, in addition to nouns denoting military concepts themselves, includes also many scientific and technical terms related to military realities<sup>12</sup>.

Hence, as N. Yatsenko notes, military vocabulary is a set of mono-branch and poly-branch special nominations that correspond to the concepts and realities of the military sphere and form a corresponding professional subsystem<sup>13</sup>.

Military vocabulary as one of the links of the lexical subsystem develops constantly and continuously, and, in periods of transformation of society, quantitative and qualitative changes in military vocabulary are most noticeable. According to T. Mykhailenko, military vocabulary is one of the “adaptive microsystems” of the national language, “which, depending on the communicative needs in the military sphere, is modified or, in the absence of such needs, ceases to function”<sup>14</sup>. An “adaptive microsystem” is understood as a language system that, being influenced by external and internal factors, adapts to the conditions of its existence, which makes it mobile and dynamic<sup>15</sup>.

---

<sup>11</sup> Поліщук О. С., Бондаренко Т. Б., Алиєва А. Д. Військова лексика як різновид спеціальної лексики в англійських та українських ЗМІ. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2022. № 23. Т. 1. С. 300.

<sup>12</sup> 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. С. 25.

<sup>13</sup> Яценко Н. О. Формування назв військового одягу в українській мові: монографія. Київ: ВД Дмитра Бурого, 2009. С. 17.

<sup>14</sup> Михайленко Т. Д. Інтра- та екстралінгвістичні аспекти формування і функціонування військової терміносистеми в національних мовах: автореф. дис. на здоб. наук. ступеня д-ра філол. наук: 10.02.15 «Загальне мовознавство» / НАН України, Ін-т укр. мови. Київ, 1996. С. 9.

<sup>15</sup> 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. С. 11.

The conceptual system of military science tends to constant change, which is explained by the close connection of military affairs with production. Continuous development and updating of types of military equipment dictate changes in the methods of conducting combat operations, which leads to a change in certain existing tactical concepts and the emergence of new ones. All changes in military affairs, in armaments and military equipment are reflected in military vocabulary, which is manifested in a change in the meanings of a number of lexical units, disappearing of some of them and the emerging of new ones<sup>16</sup>. In addition to this, it is worth mentioning the emotionally colored vocabulary that occurs, in particular, in media, such as *З-трофеї*, *нютлерюгенд*. Although such vocabulary is not terminological, it clearly demonstrates actualizing commonly used vocabulary to denote military phenomena<sup>17</sup>.

Hence, military vocabulary, once confined to professional use, is now widespread in media, politics, and daily discourse. The war in Ukraine has accelerated this shift, integrating military terms into discussions on security, energy, and diplomacy. This reflects how language adapts to global conflicts, shaping public perception and communication.

## 2. Military vocabulary as an inseparable constituent of contemporary media

Mass communication involves transmitting messages to large audiences through various media channels<sup>18</sup>. Mass media, or simply media, facilitate this process and significantly influence society<sup>19</sup>. Modern communication studies define media as any channel reaching large audiences, including traditional forms like radio, TV, newspapers, and digital platforms such as the Internet and smart devices<sup>20</sup>.

Media serves as a mirror of society, capturing both positive and negative changes throughout different periods of its development. The selection of language units, grammatical forms and structures not only reveals individual language preferences and habits of a journalist but also reflects the language skills of various social classes and groups. This highlights the influence of

---

<sup>16</sup> Левицька Н. Особливості репрезентації німецьких військових термінів в перекладі. *Актуальні проблеми філології та перекладознавства*. 2024. № 32. С. 32.

<sup>17</sup> Поліщук О. С., Бондаренко Т. Б., Алиєва А. Д. Військова лексика як різновид спеціальної лексики в англійських та українських ЗМІ. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2022. № 23. Т. 1. С. 303.

<sup>18</sup> Devito J. A. *Essentials of Human Communication*. Singapore: Pearson Education, Inc., 2011. P. 2.

<sup>19</sup> McQuail D. Mass communication and the public interest: Towards social theory for media structure and performance. *Communication theory today*. Ed. by D. Crowley, D. Mitchell. Cambridge: Polity, 1994. P. 327.

<sup>20</sup> Wimmer R. D., Dominick J. R. *Mass media research*. 7th. ed. New York: Cengage Learning, 2012. P. 2.

societal context on language use, providing insights into the characteristics of specific historical periods<sup>21</sup>.

Media language has always been open to borrowings from other sublanguages, which makes its lexical composition rich and diverse. However, with the spread of modern means of communication and mobility, the use of substandard vocabulary is becoming increasingly popular and common in media communication<sup>22</sup>. The powerful influence of the military activity on the language in the modern world is undeniable, as the vocabulary of war, which encompasses not only military technology and strategy, but also psychological states, disputes and emotions, is rapidly filling all the media<sup>23</sup>. Military vocabulary has become deeply embedded in contemporary media, shaping how events, conflicts, and strategies are described. Terms like *campaign*, *deploy* and *frontline* are commonly used in contemporary media. News outlets often adopt war-related language to frame political struggles or social issues, such as the war on drugs or cyber warfare. This pervasive use of military vocabulary influences public perception, often reinforcing a sense of urgency or conflict.

Military vocabulary, as a distinct category of specialized vocabulary, contribute to structuring knowledge about military events and related actions. They help in organizing, classifying, and conveying such information, thereby laying the foundation for preserving and expanding new knowledge based on existing insights<sup>24</sup>. At the same time, the language of media swiftly adapts to real-world innovations. English-language media outlets have dedicated sections covering the military events, marked by a high concentration of military vocabulary, encompassing both specialized military terms and commonly used war-related words<sup>25</sup>.

In this research, military vocabulary is analyzed based on the news reports about war in Ukraine published in the English media. Military vocabulary has become more widespread in English-language media due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, influencing not only reports on the conflict itself but also broader

---

<sup>21</sup> Chernysh O. Media discourse as a basic notion of mediallynguistics. *Global English – Global Decisions. XVIII TESOL: Ukraine National Conference*, April 12-13, 2013. Book of papers. Севастополь: Рибест, 2013. С. 63.

<sup>22</sup> Польовик Д. В. Актуалізація військової лексики у мові українських мас медіа. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2023. № 29. Т. 2. С. 29.

<sup>23</sup> Leleka T. O. Lexico-semantic features of the representation of the war in Ukraine by mass media (based on BBC and CNN news). *Наукові записки. Серія «Філологічні науки»*. 2023. № 2 (205). С. 116.

<sup>24</sup> Leleka T. O. Lexico-semantic features of the representation of the war in Ukraine by mass media (based on BBC and CNN news). *Наукові записки. Серія «Філологічні науки»*. 2023. № 2 (205). С. 112.

<sup>25</sup> Leleka T. O. Lexico-semantic features of the representation of the war in Ukraine by mass media (based on BBC and CNN news). *Наукові записки. Серія «Філологічні науки»*. 2023. № 2 (205). С. 116.

political, economic, and technological discussions. Vocabulary once confined to military circles is now commonly used in general news coverage, reflecting the war's impact on global affairs.

This shift in language reflects how military concepts have permeated discussions on global security, diplomacy, and even economic stability. Terms like *hybrid warfare* are now used to describe cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns: *On Tuesday, Matthew Miller, US state department spokesperson, said Washington was “incredibly concerned” about the threat of **hybrid warfare** and that American diplomats were in close contact with European allies*<sup>26</sup>; while *attritional warfare* is applied to long-term geopolitical rivalries and economic struggles: *Unless new capabilities or terrain shift the logic of a fight, **attritional warfare** ends when one side exhausts its supply of people, materiel or morale*<sup>27</sup>.

Reports on technological advancements frequently reference military applications, particularly in fields like artificial intelligence, drone development, and cybersecurity: *The North's soldiers, who had not seen combat before being deployed, were said to have been unprepared for the harsh realities of warfare in unfamiliar terrain and particularly vulnerable to Ukrainian **drones***<sup>28</sup>.

Even discussions on energy security and supply chains increasingly borrow from military vocabulary, illustrating how the language of war has become a framework for understanding broader global challenges: *After failing to conquer Ukraine by conventional means, Russia tried **an energy war**, trying to hobble the power grid and freeze the nation into submission. Now it has launched **a food war***<sup>29</sup>.

Thus, the widespread use of military vocabulary in media reflects its deep integration into contemporary discourse, shaping how conflicts, security, and geopolitical issues are understood. As military vocabulary becomes more common in political, economic, and technological discussions, it influences not only expert communication but also public perception. This expansion highlights the adaptability of language in response to global events and the media's role in disseminating specialized vocabulary. However, as military

---

<sup>26</sup> Cecco L. What is hybrid warfare, which some fear Russia will use after Ukraine's strike? *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/nov/19/hybrid-warfare-russia-ukraine>.

<sup>27</sup> Watling J. Ukraine is fighting a grim war of attrition. Only Nato can help change that. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/19/ukraine-russia-war-of-attrition-nato>.

<sup>28</sup> McCurry J. Russia withdraws North Korean troops in Kursk after losses, Seoul says. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/07/russia-withdraws-north-korea-troops-kursk-deaths-ukraine-war>.

<sup>29</sup> Borger J. Turning food into a weapon: how Russia resorted to one of the oldest forms of warfare. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/09/mines-drone-strikes-organised-plan-to-export-ukraine-grain-via-danube-ports-is-no-easy-fix>.

vocabulary continues to evolve and permeate different contexts, its translation presents unique challenges that require careful consideration.

### 3. Military vocabulary in media as a translation challenge

Translating military vocabulary presents a unique challenge due to its specialized nature, evolving terminology, and contextual sensitivity. Military language is highly technical, often requiring precise equivalents that maintain accuracy while considering cultural and linguistic differences. The rapid advancement of military technology and strategy adds to the complexity, demanding continuous adaptation in translation.

In fact, there are numerous works considering the specifics of military vocabulary translation. In particular, V. O. Yablochnikova<sup>30</sup> concentrates her attention on the specific translation transformations used for rendering military terminology stressing that “the correct translation of military terms depends not only on a good knowledge of the language, but also on knowledge of the realities of the foreign and Ukrainian armies, their organization, weapons and military equipment”<sup>31</sup>. M. V. Nahach and M. M. Khomenko<sup>32</sup> highlight the complexity of military terms, including jargon, emotional language, and technical vocabulary unique to the military sphere stressing stress the need for a thorough understanding of these terms to ensure accurate translation and effective communication within military discourse.

Speaking about military vocabulary, it is also mostly discussed in terms of choosing the means of its translation like in the article by I. O. Lysychkina and O. O. Lysychkina<sup>33</sup> who speak about transliteration, transcription, loan translation, descriptive translation (explication), direct inclusion, approximate translation as the basic means of rendering military vocabulary. The specifics of translating military vocabulary in news reports is discussed in the research by L. K. Malimon and K. O. Shcherban<sup>34</sup> who state that the most common means of translating military terminology are the use of lexical equivalents, and, in their absence, various translation transformations, namely loan translation, transcoding, compression, decompression, permutation, concretization and generalization of meaning.

---

<sup>30</sup> Yablochnikova V. O. Translation peculiarities of the military terminology. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2023. № 61. С. 246–249.

<sup>31</sup> Yablochnikova V. O. Translation peculiarities of the military terminology. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2023. № 61. С. 249.

<sup>32</sup> Нагач М. В., Хоменко М. М. Особливості перекладу військових термінів. *Scientific Collection “InterConf+”*. 2023. Vol. 39 (179). P. 596–606.

<sup>33</sup> Лисичкіна І. О., Лисичкіна О. О. Сучасна військова лексика в аспекті англо-українського перекладу. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2022. № 57. С. 190–193.

<sup>34</sup> Малімон Л. К., Щербан К. О. Переклад військової термінології в англomовних онлайн-новинах під час висвітлення війни в Україні. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2024. № 35. С. 201–205.



However, discussing not only means but the challenges in military vocabulary translation is important because it highlights the complexities involved in accurately conveying meaning across languages and cultures. Recognizing these obstacles can lead to better translation practices, improve communication in military contexts, and ultimately enhance collaboration among international forces. Addressing challenges ensures that translations are not only linguistically correct but also culturally relevant and functionally effective. Thus, the attention in this research is concentrated at challenges in translating English vocabulary of military sphere in contemporary media into Ukrainian and the ways of overcoming them.

First of all, the translation of military vocabulary creates great difficulties, because the correct translation cannot be done without a careful, sometimes even etymological analysis of its components. It should be noted that the main translation error of such terms is that translators sometimes try to find a literal correspondence of a foreign term to Ukrainian documents. This approach is not entirely correct, because, firstly, it erases the specifics of the realities of a foreign army, and secondly, there may be an error due to the fact that these terms may express concepts specific only to this army, and therefore not to correspond to the realities accepted in the Ukrainian army<sup>35</sup>.

In particular, language unit *command and control* (C2) is one of such challenging terms. Different armed forces might use distinct phrases or acronyms for similar concepts. If a translator interprets *command and control* too literally without understanding its broader implications in a military context, they might overlook specific nuances in how this term is used in different armies. This could lead to miscommunication regarding strategic operations and organizational structure. For example: *Those calling for such accountability, though, should understand the nature of operational command and control and those empowered and equipped to exercise it*<sup>36</sup>. In this context, *command and control* refers to the processes and systems used by leaders to direct and manage operations, particularly in military or organizational settings. It involves the authority to make decisions and the ability to communicate and coordinate actions effectively. Thus, the possible translation would be: *Проте ті, хто закликає до такої підзвітності, повинні розуміти природу оперативного командування та управління, а також тих, хто має повноваження та оснащення для його здійснення.*

Another challenge associated with the inflow of military terms into the public information space is potential misinterpretation and misuse of these

---

<sup>35</sup> Dolynskiy Ye. V. Stylistic and translation aspects of English military texts. *Науковий вісник ДДПУ імені І. Франка. Серія: Філологічні науки (мовознавство)*. 2021. № 15. Р. 47.

<sup>36</sup> Shanahan R. Australia's military should be held to account – but it's the individual soldier who pulls the trigger. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/09/australias-military-should-be-held-to-account-but-its-the-individual-soldier-who-pulls-the-trigger>.

lexical items by nonprofessionals, which may lead to ambiguity and communication failure<sup>37</sup>. An example of potential misinterpretation and misuse of military terms by non-professionals could be the language unit *collateral damage*. In military contexts, it refers to unintended damage or casualties inflicted on non-combatants or civilian infrastructure during military operations. However, if someone outside the military uses this term without understanding its specific meaning, they might interpret it more casually or inaccurately, leading to confusion about the severity of an event. For instance, a news report might state that there was *collateral damage* in a conflict, and a reader might misunderstand it as a minor incident rather than recognizing the serious implications of civilian harm and loss of life that it often entails. For example: *In the city there is not any building which has not suffered from direct or collateral damage*<sup>38</sup> – У місті немає жодної будівлі, яка б не постраждала від прямих чи **побічних пошкоджень**. The variant *супутні ушкодження* is inappropriate here as is not an accurate equivalent of *collateral damage* in this context and could lead to misunderstanding. The latter term does not carry the same connotation as *collateral damage*, which specifically refers to unintended harm to civilians or civilian structures during military operations.

Moreover, context-dependent meanings pose a significant challenge in translating military vocabulary in media because many such units can have varied interpretations based on the specific situation. The situational nuances of military language can change the meaning of terms over time. For example, *engagement*. During planning phases, it might refer to strategizing troop movements, while in active combat, it denotes an actual confrontation, and understanding these distinctions is crucial for accurate translation.

In the case presented in Figure 1, the author speaks of *engagement* as involvement of North Korean troops on the battlefield in certain areas, so here we cannot speak about бойові зіткнення, вторгнення, etc. It is rather залучення: **Залучення** армії Північної Кореї у війні в Україні.

On the contrary, translating *Ukrainian forces were engaged in containing increasing Russian attacks on Monday around the shattered eastern town of Bakhmut, which was seized by Moscow in May, military officials said*<sup>39</sup>, one

---

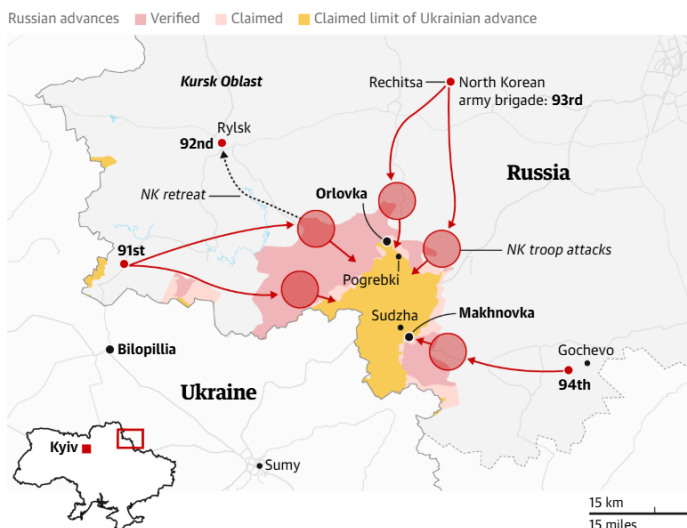
<sup>37</sup> Kolisnyk M. Aspects of military-related text translation from English into Ukrainian. *International scientific and practical conference "Multidisciplinary academic notes. Science research and practice"* (Madrid, Spain, April 19-22, 2022). Madrid: International Science Group "ISG-KONF.COM", 2022. P. 486.

<sup>38</sup> "90% of houses are damaged": Russia's Syria-honed tactics lay waste Ukraine towns. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/04/ninety-per-cent-of-houses-are-damaged-thousands-trapped-in-ukraines-small-towns>.

<sup>39</sup> Gecsoyler S., Lowe Y. Russia-Ukraine war at a glance: what we know on day 636. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/21/russia-ukraine-war-at-a-glance-what-we-know-on-day-636>

cannot use *залучені*. Considering the context, here *вступати в боєві зіткнення* is more appropriate: *Військові чиновники заявили, що в понеділок українські сили вступали в боєві зіткнення із стримування зростаючих атак Росії поблизу зруйнованого східного міста Бахмут, яке було захоплене Москвою в травні.*

### North Korean army engagement in Ukraine



**Fig. 1. Example of word *engagement* in media in the context of war in Ukraine<sup>40</sup>**

Moreover, different military branches also use the same language units in varying ways. The word *mission*, for example, could refer to a specific assignment for ground troops in the Army, while in the Navy, it might pertain to a naval deployment. This differentiation underscores the importance of recognizing the context of the military branch being discussed. Thus, when rendering the sentence, *A new Nato **mission** located in Wiesbaden will take over the coordination of Western military aid for Ukraine in January*<sup>41</sup>, the

<sup>40</sup> McCurry J. Russia withdraws North Korean troops in Kursk after losses, Seoul says. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/07/russia-withdraws-north-korea-troops-kursk-deaths-ukraine-war>.

<sup>41</sup> Murray W. Ukraine war briefing: Europe to take charge of military aid as Trump era looms. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/26/ukraine-war-briefing-europe-to-take-charge-of-military-aid-as-trump-era-looms>.

translator tends to use the word *місія* as it is used in NATO terminology: *Нова місія НАТО у Вісбадені візьме на себе координацію західної військової допомоги Україні в січні.*

However, in the context of a person's combat mission, the word *завдання* is more appropriate: *His first combat mission was on 8 January<sup>42</sup> – Його перше бойове завдання було 8 січня.*

Moreover, many acronyms can have different meanings based on the context in which they are used. For example, *CAS* could refer to *Close Air Support* in a military aviation context, but it might also stand for *Computer Aided Software* in a technology context. Translators must be aware of the specific context to ensure they are interpreting and translating acronyms correctly, for example: *The use of the CAS aircraft has fuelled claims that the US is actively co-ordinating tactics with the rebels<sup>43</sup>.* In this case, only context and individual knowledge allows to differentiate the meaning of an acronym translating it as *безпосередня авіаційна підтримка*, or *БАП*. Considering the target audience, the full variant is used: *Використання літака безпосередньої авіаційної підтримки зміцнило думки про те, що США активно координують тактику з повстанцями.*

Thus, translating into Ukrainian military vocabulary in media presents significant challenges that require both linguistic expertise and an understanding of military context and terminology. As demonstrated, misinterpretations can occur when translators rely on literal translations without considering the specific implications in different military frameworks, so the nuances of military language, including acronyms, jargon, and context-dependent meanings, necessitate careful analysis to ensure accurate communication.

## CONCLUSIONS

Military vocabulary is an integral part of specialized language, designed for precise and unambiguous communication within the military field. It exhibits unique characteristics, including a close relationship with specific scientific areas, distinct linguistic structures, and adherence to established norms. This kind of specialized vocabulary often transcends its professional context, becoming more widely used in society, especially in media reporting and everyday discussions related to military matters.

The military vocabulary has been spread to contemporary media, reflecting its significant influence on public discourse. Language units that

---

<sup>42</sup> McCurry J. Russia withdraws North Korean troops in Kursk after losses, Seoul says. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/07/russia-withdraws-north-korea-troops-kursk-deaths-ukraine-war>.

<sup>43</sup> Norton-Taylor R. US gunships mark change of tactic in Libya air strikes. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/mar/29/gunships-mark-change-tactic-libya>.

originated in military contexts are now frequently employed in political, economic, and technological discussions, particularly in light of recent global conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine. This shift demonstrates the adaptability of language to societal changes and the media's role in shaping perceptions of security and conflict.

The increasing presence of military vocabulary in media underscores the need for careful translation practices that account for the complexities of military language, ensuring clarity and accuracy in cross-linguistic communication. Translating military vocabulary poses unique challenges due to its specialized nature and the evolving context of military language. The challenges highlighted in the research include contextual sensitivity of military vocabulary, its cultural and institutional variations, and wide use of acronyms and abbreviations. Accurate translation of military vocabulary in contemporary media requires not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of military concepts, terminology, and cultural nuances. The potential for misinterpretation is high, especially when translators rely on literal translations without considering the specific implications and context of military terms.

## SUMMARY

The vocabulary used in media shapes public perception of national security by influencing how threats are communicated, highlighting the need for accurate translation of military terms, especially in the context of Ukraine's collaboration with NATO. Rapid changes in military vocabulary, driven by technological advancements and evolving warfare methods, necessitate consistent and contextually appropriate translations to prevent misunderstandings and potential panic among the public. Military vocabulary, as a kind of specialized vocabulary, facilitates precise communication within the military field and encompasses lexical units related to military actions, concepts, and technical equipment. This vocabulary is dynamic and constantly evolving due to advancements in military technology and societal changes, making it relevant not only in formal military contexts but also in everyday language used by politicians, journalists, and civilians. Military vocabulary has become increasingly prominent in media, reflecting its deep integration into contemporary discourse surrounding conflicts, security, and geopolitical issues. The use of the vocabulary of military sphere in news reports and discussions on political, economic, and technological matters not only shapes public perception but also illustrates the adaptability of language in response to global events, posing unique challenges for translation. Translating military vocabulary is challenging due to its specialized nature, contextual sensitivity of military vocabulary, its cultural and institutional variations, and wide use of acronyms and abbreviations. To translate military vocabulary accurately in

modern media, it is essential to possess language skills and a thorough comprehension of military concepts, terminology, and cultural aspects. There is a significant risk of misinterpretation, particularly when translators use literal translations without considering the particular meanings and contexts of military vocabulary use.

### Bibliography

1. Бондарчук К. С., Чумаченко О. А. Функції і способи презентації спеціальної лексики в українській художній літературі (на матеріалі романів Павла Загребельного). *Вісник Університету імені Альфреда Нобеля. Серія «Філологічні науки»*. 2020. № 2 (20). С. 150–158. DOI: 10.32342/2523-4463-2020-2-20-15.
2. Левицька Н. Особливості репрезентації німецьких військових термінів в перекладі. *Актуальні проблеми філології та перекладознавства*. 2024. № 32. С. 31–34. DOI: 10.31891/2415-7929-2024-32-6.
3. Лисичкіна І. О., Лисичкіна О. О. Сучасна військова лексика в аспекті англо-українського перекладу. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2022. № 57. С. 190–193. DOI: 10.32841/2409-1154.2022.57.44.
4. 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. 206 с.
5. Малімон Л. К., Щербан К. О. Переклад військової термінології в англомовних онлайн-новинах під час висвітлення війни в Україні. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2024. № 35. С. 201–205. DOI: 10.32782/tps2663-4880/2024.35.36.
6. Михайленко Т. Д. Інтра- та екстралінгвістичні аспекти формування і функціонування військової терміносистеми в національних мовах: автореф. дис. на здоб. наук. ступеня д-ра філол. наук: 10.02.15 «Загальне мовознавство» / НАН України, Ін-т укр. мови. Київ, 1996. 48 с.
7. Нагач М. В., Хоменко М. М. Особливості перекладу військових термінів. *Scientific Collection "InterConf+"*. 2023. Vol. 39 (179). Р. 596–606. DOI: 10.51582/interconf.19-20.11.2023.061.
8. Павлова О. Терміни, професіоналізми і номенклатурні знаки (до проблеми класифікації спеціальної лексики). *Вісник Нац. ун-ту «Львівська політехніка». Серія «Проблеми української термінології»*. 2008. № 620. С. 49–54.
9. Поліщук О. С., Бондаренко Т. Б., Алиєва А. Д. Військова лексика як різновид спеціальної лексики в англійських та українських ЗМІ. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2022. № 23. Т. 1. С. 299–303. DOI: 10.32782/tps2663-4880/2022.23.1.57.

10. Польовик Д. В. Актуалізація військової лексики у мові українських мас медіа. *Закарпатські філологічні студії*. 2023. № 29. Т. 2. С. 28–33. DOI: 10.32782/tps2663-4880/2023.29.2.5.
11. Пуш О. М., Гасюк Н. В. Особливості перекладу військової термінології. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2002. № 58. С. 305–308. DOI: 10.32841/2409-1154.2022.58.68.
12. Яценко Н. О. Формування назв військового одягу в українській мові: монографія. Київ: ВД Дмитра Бурого, 2009. 179 с.
13. “90% of houses are damaged”: Russia’s Syria-honed tactics lay waste Ukraine towns. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/04/ninety-per-cent-of-houses-are-damaged-thousands-trapped-in-ukraines-small-towns>.
14. Borger J. Turning food into a weapon: how Russia resorted to one of the oldest forms of warfare. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/09/mines-drone-strikes-organised-plan-to-export-ukraine-grain-via-danube-ports-is-no-easy-fix>.
15. Cecco L. What is hybrid warfare, which some fear Russia will use after Ukraine’s strike? *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/nov/19/hybrid-warfare-russia-ukraine>.
16. Chernysh O. Media discourse as a basic notion of medialinguistics. *Global English – Global Decisions. XVIII TESOL: Ukraine National Conference*, April 12-13, 2013. Book of papers. Севастополь: Рибест, 2013. С. 61–63.
17. Devito J. A. Essentials of Human Communication. Singapore: Pearson Education, Inc., 2011. 357 p.
18. Dolynskiy Ye. V. Stylistic and translation aspects of English military texts. *Науковий вісник ДДПУ імені І. Франка. Серія: Філологічні науки (мовознавство)*. 2021. № 15. Р. 46–50. DOI: 10.24919/2663-6042.15.2021.8.
19. Gecsoyler S., Lowe Y. Russia-Ukraine war at a glance: what we know on day 636. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/21/russia-ukraine-war-at-a-glance-what-we-know-on-day-636>.
20. Hoffman L. Kommunikationsmittel Fachsprache. Eine Einführung. Tübingen: Günter Narr, 1985. 304 s.
21. Kolisnyk M. Aspects of military-related text translation from English into Ukrainian. *International scientific and practical conference “Multidisciplinary academic notes. Science research and practice”* (Madrid, Spain, April 19-22, 2022). Madrid: International Science Group “ISG-KONF.COM”, 2022. P. 486–489.
22. Leleka T. O. Lexico-semantic features of the representation of the war in Ukraine by mass media (based on BBC and CNN news). *Наукові записки. Серія «Філологічні науки»*. 2023. № 2 (205). С. 111–117. DOI: 10.32782/2522-4077-2023-205-16.

23. McCurry J. Russia withdraws North Korean troops in Kursk after losses, Seoul says. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/07/russia-withdraws-north-korea-troops-kursk-deaths-ukraine-war>.
24. McQuail D. Mass communication and the public interest: Towards social theory for media structure and performance. *Communication theory today*. Ed. by D. Crowley, D. Mitchell. Cambridge: Polity, 1994. P. 235–253.
25. Murray W. Ukraine war briefing: Europe to take charge of military aid as Trump era looms. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/26/ukraine-war-briefing-europe-to-take-charge-of-military-aid-as-trump-era-looms>.
26. Norton-Taylor R. US gunships mark change of tactic in Libya air strikes. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/mar/29/gunships-mark-change-tactic-libya>.
27. Setiawana A., Nurmandi A., Purnomo E. P., Muhammad A. Disinformation and Miscommunication in Government Communication in Handling COVID-19 Pandemic. *Webology*. 2021. Vol. 18. No. 1. P. 203–218.
28. Shanahan R. Australia's military should be held to account – but it's the individual soldier who pulls the trigger. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/09/australias-military-should-be-held-to-account-but-its-the-individual-soldier-who-pulls-the-trigger>.
29. The International Institute for Strategic Studies. The Military Balance. London Office, 2018. 504 p.
30. Watling J. Ukraine is fighting a grim war of attrition. Only Nato can help change that. *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/19/ukraine-russia-war-of-attrition-nato>.
31. Wimmer R. D., Dominick J. R. Mass media research. 7th. ed. New York: Cengage Learning, 2012. 477 p.
32. Yablochnikova V. O. Translation peculiarities of the military terminology. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія*. 2023. № 61. С. 246–249. DOI: 10.32782/2409-1154.2023.61.54.
33. Zaiats L. Conceptual space of vocabulary in the sphere of national security in contemporary English media: case study of publications on war in Ukraine. *Актуальні питання гуманітарних наук*. 2024. № 77. Т. 1. С. 225–230. DOI: 10.24919/2308-4863/77-1-31.

**Information about the author:**

**Savina Yuliia Oleksandrivna,**

Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor,

Associate Professor at the Department of Translation

Dnipro University of Technology

19, Dmytra Yavornytskoho ave., Dnipro, 49005, Ukraine