UDC 811.111’276.6’25:61
DOI https://doi.org/10.32782/philspu/2025.9.4

EPONYMS IN THE CONTEXT OF LEARNING ENGLISH MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY: PSYCHIATRY

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The article deals with eponyms as an important element of medical terminology, in particular in the field of psychiatry, in the context of mastering specialized translation. Eponyms greatly facilitate the learning of English specialized terminology, allowing conveying complex information in a concise form. The article analyzes the criteria by which eponyms can be recognized as valid. The paper provides examples of well-known psychiatric syndromes and diseases. Several classifications of eponyms are presented. The most common eponyms in medical terminology are also considered, in particular those related to syndromes, diseases, clinical symptoms, cells and methods. The role of eponyms in clinical practice, and systematization of medical knowledge, as well as their importance in forming associative links between terms and their clinical definitions, are analyzed. It is investigated how eponyms contribute to differential diagnosis, providing translators and doctors with a quick identification of pathological conditions based on known clinical manifestations.

Particular attention is paid to the function of eponyms, which contributes to the honoring of scientists who have made a significant contribution to the development of medicine and shaped modern ideas about pathological processes. The use of eponymic nomenclature at the microscopic level, in particular in histology and cell biology, is considered, which allows standardizing morphological descriptions. The article analyzes the translation of eponymic methods in the standardization of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, which is an important component of translators' professional activities, since medical terminology often has its own specific features and requires high accuracy and awareness. Current trends in medical terminology, including the possible replacement of eponyms with pathophysiological names, demonstrate the need not only for linguistic knowledge but also for an understanding of the specifics of medical practice and the development of technologies in this field. The arguments for the preservation of eponyms in the medical language, in particular their historical and educational value, are highlighted. The key strategies for overcoming translation difficulties are outlined.

Key words: *English language, eponyms, medical terminology.*

Воробйова Лоліта, Михальченко Катерина. Епоніми в контексті вивчання англійської медичної термінології: психіатрія

У статті розглядаються епоніми як важливий елемент медичної термінології, зокрема в галузі психіатрії, у контексті опанування галузевого перекладу. Епоніми суттєво полегшують вивчення англійської спеціалізованої термінології, що дозволяє передавати складну інформацію в стиснутій формі. Аналізуються критерії, за якими епоніми можуть бути визнані валідними. У роботі наведено приклади відомих психіатричних синдромів і захворювань. Наведено кілька класифікацій епонімів. Також розглянуто найпоширеніші епоніми в медичній термінології, зокрема ті, що стосуються синдромів, захворювань, клінічних симптомів, клітин і методів. Проаналізовано роль епонімів у клінічній практиці, систематизації медичних знань, а також їх значення у формуванні асоціативних зв’язків між термінами та їх клінічними визначеннями. Досліджено, як епоніми сприяють диференційній діагностиці, забезпечуючи перекладачам і лікарям швидку ідентифікацію патологічних станів на основі відомих клінічних проявів.

Окрему увагу приділено функції епонімів, яка сприяє вшануванню науковців, які зробили вагомий внесок у розвиток медицини та сформували сучасні уявлення про патологічні процеси. Розглянуто використання епонімічної номенклатури на мікроскопічному рівні, зокрема в гістології та клітинній біології, що дозволяє стандартизувати морфологічні описи. Проаналізовано переклад епонімічних методів у стандартизації діагностичних та терапевтичних підходів, що є важливим компонентом професійної діяльності перекладачів, оскільки медична термінологія часто має свої специфічні особливості та вимагає високої точності й обізнаності. Сучасні тенденції у медичній термінології, включаючи можливу заміну епонімів на патофізіологічні назви, свідчать про необхідність не лише лінгвістичних знань, а й розуміння специфіки медичної практики та розвитку технологій у цій галузі. Висвітлено аргументи щодо збереження епонімів у медичній мові, зокрема їхню історичну та освітню цінність. Окреслено ключові стратегії подолання перекладацьких труднощів.

Ключові слова: *англійська мова, епоніми, медична термінологія.*

Introduction. Learning medical terminology is an important aspect of training healthcare professionals, as a proper understanding of the terms allows for effective communication in a professional environment, accurate diagnoses, and quality medical care. Medical terminology forms the basis for communication between doctors, nurses, and other professionals, and is also critical for teaching not only medical students but philology students who are studying specialized translation in the medical field, in particular. Learning eponyms is crucial for future translators in specialized medical translation. Eponyms play an important role in the study of medical terminology. Therefore, it is important to understand the role of eponyms in medical terminology. Translators need to recognize and accurately translate these eponyms to ensure the correct identification of medical concepts. Misunderstanding or mistranslating an eponym can lead to significant errors in diagnosis or treatment.

Materials and methods. The paper studies eponyms in the context of mastering specialized translation. Eponyms often reflect the names of doctors who first described certain psychiatric conditions or developed appropriate methods of diagnosis and treatment. The following methods are used: method of extrapolation to substantiate the provisions on understanding the influence of historical experience on the English vocabulary; statistical method to verify the information obtained by processing and comparing data published in various scientific sources.

Disscussion. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, *eponym* is a person or thing, or the name of a person or thing, from which a place, an invention, a discovery, etc. gets its name [5]. According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus, *eponym* refers also to the name of an object or activity that is also the name of the person who first produced the object or did the activity [3].

The study of eponyms entering and evolving into medical vocabulary in the English languages is relevant in modern linguistics, which is confirmed by numerous studies. P.Arnaudova's works focus on multilingual and eponymic medical terminology. G. Poláčková and B. Džuganová collaborated on research analyzing the motivation in medical terminology, including eponyms. Ukrainian linguists N. Bytsko, N. Misnyk and I. Zalipska investigated the lexical-semantic organization and structure of medical terms, addressing the thematic classification of medical terminology and analyzing the lexical and stylistic peculiarities of eponymic medical terminology in scientific texts.

Thus, eponyms are terms derived from the names of people, often physicians or scientists, who first discovered a disease, anatomical structure, medical procedure, or clinical sign. Understanding of eponyms is essential for medical professionals and translators because they are widely used in medical literature, patient records, and professional communication.

Doctors, linguists, and writers have always disagreed about the appropriateness of eponyms in both written and spoken medical discourse. In particular, some believe that eponyms should be part of scientific literature because they are the only way to honor people who have made important discoveries or described a particular disease. It is also stated that eponyms should be abandoned because they are unclear, inaccurate, and provide no information other than historical information [1, p. 2].

According to Cappuzzo, eponyms are valuable shorthand, and accurate understanding of eponyms' meaning results in a great deal of specific information in a shortened form. He emphasizes the greater conciseness of eponyms compared to their descriptive equivalents. In addition, the importance of eponyms, arguing that they are the only means "to embed medical traditions and cultures in our history" [2, p. 2].

Therefore, it is important to understand the essence of this term. Eponyms are used to refer to various medical phenomena, such as diseases, symptoms, procedures, and tools. Some eponyms may not have direct translations, or they might require a specific linguistic approach, such as maintaining the original name in translation or providing an explanatory note. Translators must be equipped to make these decisions based on the context and the audience for whom they are translating.

There are two main types of eponyms. First, there are eponyms that have become commonly used words, which are derived from the name of a person who has made a significant contribution to a particular field of knowledge and has become a commonly used term, for example, "pasteurization" comes from the name of Louis Pasteur and is used to describe the process of processing milk. Secondly, eponyms denoting specific medical phenomena, used to name diseases, symptoms, signs or procedures [4, p. 258].

This research paper will examine examples of the second type of eponyms. Particular attention will be paid to eponyms in the field of psychiatry, which often reflect the names of doctors who first described certain psychiatric conditions or developed appropriate methods of diagnosis and treatment. Knowledge of these historical figures and their contributions allows translators to understand the significance of the terms they are translating. Additionally, some eponyms are deeply ingrained in medical education and practice, so understanding them enriches the translator's knowledge of medical history and helps them provide more nuanced and contextually appropriate translations. Medical translators use different translation methods, often depending on context, target audience, and linguistic norms of the target language. The main translation methods used for medical eponyms are: transliteration and literal transfer.

Many linguists and medical experts suggest solving the problem of eponyms by replacing them with descriptive terms. However, eponyms enrich medical communication, making it more concise and understandable in a professional environment. For example, terms such as Alzheimer's disease, Down syndrome, and Botkin's disease are commonly understood and do not cause confusion [7, p. 173].

However, in his work "Beyond Wernicke's: A Lexicon of Eponyms in Psychiatry" scientist D.Bresch describes

certain criteria for eponyms that are valid and are evaluated by psychiatrists with less skepticism [1, 158]. The Campbell's Psychiatric Dictionary was analyzed, and eponyms were included if they met the following criteria:

1) Description an abnormal sign or syndrome that is currently considered clinically significant, even if the eponym itself has fallen out of use. For example, Beard's disease (neurasthenia) and Erichsen's disease (railroad spine) are excluded from the list, but Kanner's syndrome (autism) and Hakim-Adams syndrome (normal pressure hydrocephalus) are included;

2) Relation to a real person rather than a fictional character; for example, Dorian Gray, Othello, and Diogenes syndromes are excluded;

3) Relevance to the field of psychiatry;

4) Usage by more than one or two authors [1, p. 156].

The list includes 74 diseases and symptoms that cover a wide range of medical conditions. Among the most well-known is Alzheimer's, a form of dementia characterized by early memory loss, neurofibrils, and senile plaques, named after the German neurologist and psychiatrist Alois Alzheimer. Da Costa's syndrome, also known as panic disorder, manifested in the form of debilitating anxiety attacks accompanied by attempts to avoid situations that cause them, is named after Jacob Da Costa, who studied this disorder, in particular in soldiers during the US Civil War. Capgras syndrome, a condition of believing that familiar people have been replaced by doubles, was first described by the French psychiatrist Joseph Capgras under the name “double illusion.” Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative disease that leads to movement disorders such as resting tremors, bradykinesia, and rigidity. Parkinson's disease already owes its name to the French neurologist Jean Charcot. He suggested naming it in honor of James Parkinson, a British physician and author of the Essay on Tremulous Paralysis, whose work was not properly recognized during his lifetime [6, p. 1]. Tourette's syndrome, manifested by motor and vocal tics and sometimes accompanied by obsessive-compulsive symptoms, which was described by the French neurologist Gilles de la Tourette as one of the tic disorders. Or Williams syndrome, which is accompanied by mental retardation and a characteristic “elfin” face [1, p. 156].

The most frequently used eponyms in medical terminology are the names of syndromes, diseases, signs, cells and methods and they may present several translation challenges. These challenges arise from a variety of linguistic, cultural, and technical factors. Let's break down the main issues that translators face when working with medical eponyms. The most frequently used eponyms in translation practices may be related to:

Syndromes:

− Asperger's Syndrome is named after Hans Asperger and has become controversial due to his actions during the Nazi era. Eponyms often carry historical significance, and some of the individuals after whom conditions are named may have controversial backgrounds. Some translations may need to navigate these sensitive issues;

− Down syndrome (Trisomy 21) – named after John Langdon Down, this genetic disorder results from an extra copy of chromosome 21, causing developmental delays and characteristic facial features;

− Guillain-Barré syndrome might now be referred to as “Acute Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy” in some contexts. In some languages, the outdated term might still be in use. In translation it should be stayed up to date with medical literature and current usage in both source and target languages. In cases where the eponym is no longer widely used, the modern term should be chosen, but it may require additional explanation by the translator;

− Jackson syndrome – a neurological condition caused by a brainstem lesion, leading to cranial nerve paralysis. Named after Hughlings Jackson;

− Pickwick syndrome (Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome) – named after a character from Charles Dickens’ The Pickwick Papers, this syndrome causes obesity-related respiratory failure;

− Robin syndrome (Pierre Robin syndrome) – a congenital condition causing facial abnormalities, including a small jaw and cleft palate, named after Pierre Robin;

Diseases:

− Alzheimer's disease – in English might be called "Maladie d'Alzheimer" in French or "Enfermedad de Alzheimer" in Spanish. However, the concept may not be as widely known in all languages, and a direct translation might not always exist.

− Cushing’s disease – named after Harvey Cushing, this endocrine disorder results from excessive cortisol due to a pituitary tumor. “Cushing’s disease” and “Cushing’s syndrome” may be used interchangeably, or there may not be a distinction made between the two terms. Translators must ensure the correct term is used depending on the context, and they may need to add explanatory phrases to make the distinction clear, especially when the broader term “Cushing's syndrome” is involved;

− Heine-Medin disease (Poliomyelitis) – an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system, named after Karl Heine and Oskar Medin. However, over time, the term "poliomyelitis" has become more widely used in medical contexts. The translator must decide whether to retain the historical eponym, use the modern term "poliomyelitis," or use both terms in the translation to maintain clarity. In some cases, a footnote explaining the historical context may be necessary;

− Lou Gehrig’s disease is also known as “Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)”. Translators must decide which term to use, and whether to choose the eponym or the more descriptive term. Translators should assess the context of the article or text and decide based on the audience's familiarity with the term. In medical literature, it may be better to use the scientific or non-eponymic term, while in clinical settings, the eponym may be more recognizable to practitioners;

− Ménière’s disease – a disorder of the inner ear causing vertigo and hearing loss, first described by Prosper Ménière. Different countries or medical communities may use different eponyms for the same condition or procedure. What is called “Meniere's disease” in one country may be referred to by a different name in another. The translator

needs to be familiar with the specific medical terminologies used in the target region and choose the correct variant. They may also have to include a footnote or an explanation if the eponym varies between cultures;

− Schimmelbusch disease – a benign breast condition, named after Carl Schimmelbusch, involving cyst formation in glandular tissue;

Signs (a medical sign is an objective indication of a disease, observed by a physician. Several signs in clinical medicine are named after their discoverers):

− Amoss' sign – a test for meningitis where a patient experiences difficulty rising from a supine position without support.

− Brudzinski neck sign – used to diagnose meningitis, where passive neck flexion causes involuntary knee flexion. Named after Josef Brudzinski.

− Courvoisier's sign – an enlarged, non-tender gallbladder, indicating pancreatic cancer. Named after Ludwig Courvoisier.

− Graefe's sign – associated with Graves' disease, it describes the delayed movement of the upper eyelid when looking downward.

− Mobius sign – a symptom of Graves' disease, characterized by weak convergence of the eyes due to muscle dysfunction.

Cells:

− Corti hair cell – sensory cells in the cochlea responsible for hearing, named after Alfonso Corti.

− Hensen cell – supporting cells in the cochlea, named after Christian Hensen.

− Merkel cell – touch-sensitive epidermal cells, named after Friedrich Merkel.

− Paneth granule cell – found in the intestines, these cells secrete antimicrobial substances, named after Joseph Paneth.

− Sertoli cell – cells in the testes that support sperm development, named after Enrico Sertoli.

Methods:

− Knaus-Ogino method – a natural birth control method based on ovulation timing, developed by Hermann Knaus and Kyusaku Ogino.

− Billings ovulation method – a natural fertility tracking method based on cervical mucus observation, named after John and Evelyn Billings.

− Seldinger method – a widely used technique for inserting catheters, named after Sven-Ivar Seldinger.

− Vojta method – a physiotherapy technique used for neurological disorders, named after Václav Vojta.

− Westergren method – a test measuring the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), named after Robert Westergren [8, p. 114].

So, the statement that the most commonly used eponyms in medical English language pertain to syndromes, diseases, signs, cells, and methods is substantiated by the frequency with which these categories encapsulate both pathological and physiological phenomena, as well as diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. Their pervasive usage not only honors the pioneering scientists and clinicians who elucidated these medical phenomena but also provides a heuristic framework for efficient clinical communication.

Syndromes, characterized by a constellation of interrelated symptoms, frequently bear the names of their discoverers, reinforcing the clinical pattern recognition essential for differential diagnosis. Diseases, often eponymized in homage to their initial descriptors, serve as a bridge between nosology and pathophysiology, offering linguistic shorthand that encapsulates complex etiological and epidemiological narratives. Some eponyms are difficult to pronounce or spell in the target language, particularly if the original name is from a language with different phonetics or alphabet (e.g., German, Latin, or Greek).

At the microscopic and cellular level, eponymous nomenclature extends to histological entities, underscoring the importance of cellular morphology and function in pathophysiological processes. The recognition of distinct cellular structures–such as Merkel cells in mechanotransduction or Paneth cells in mucosal immunity–reinforces the integrative nature of cellular physiology in health and disease.

Despite the undeniable utility of eponymous terminology, contemporary discourse in medical linguistics has debated the potential obsolescence of such terms in favor of pathophysiology-based nomenclature.

Results. In conclusion, eponyms have played a multifaceted role in the landscape of English medical terminology, particularly within the specialized domain of psychiatry. They have served as historical markers, mnemonic devices, and convenient shorthand for complex clinical entities. Their usage has long been intertwined with the tradition of honoring the pioneers who have significantly contributed to our understanding of mental health and illness. However, the enduring presence of eponyms is increasingly being challenged by ethical considerations, a lack of descriptive clarity, and the potential for confusion.

This article investigates the role of eponyms as an important element of medical terminology, particularly in the field of psychiatry, in the context of mastering ctranslation. The criteria by which eponyms can be considered valid in the medical literature were analyzed, taking into account their clinical significance, connection with real persons, relevance to psychiatry, and frequency of use. The prevalence of eponyms in medical terminology, including their use to refer to syndromes, diseases, clinical symptoms, cells, and methods, was considered. The importance of eponyms in clinical practice, systematization of medical knowledge and their role in forming associative links between terms and their clinical definitions, as well as in facilitating differential diagnosis, are analyzed. Special attention was paid to the function of eponyms in honoring scientists who have made a significant contribution to the development of medicine. The use of eponymic nomenclature at the microscopic level, in particular in histology and cell biology, as well as the translation of eponymic methods in the standardization of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches was considered. Current trends in medical terminology, including the possible replacement of eponyms with pathophysiological names, and arguments

in favor of preserving eponyms, including their historical and educational value, were highlighted. The key strategies for overcoming translation difficulties associated with the use of eponyms in medical terminology were also identified. It was found that eponyms are most often used in medical English to refer to syndromes, diseases, signs, cells, and methods, which is justified by the frequency with which these categories cover both pathological and physiological phenomena, as well as diagnostic and therapeutic methods.

In addition, the controversial nature of this topic was discussed. The ongoing debate regarding the preservation versus replacement of eponyms reflects a broader tension between historical reverence and the contemporary need for accuracy, clarity, and ethical integrity in medical language. While eponyms offer a connection to the past and can facilitate communication among those familiar with them, the growing preference for descriptive terms aims to enhance understanding and reduce ambiguity, especially in an increasingly globalized medical community.

For medical translation, this evolving linguistic landscape presents both challenges and opportunities. Translators must navigate the complexities of historical and contemporary terminology, ensuring accuracy and clarity across different languages and cultural contexts. Medical translators use different translation methods, often depending on context, target audience, and linguistic norms of the target language. The main translation methods used for medical eponyms are: transliteration and literal transfer. The potential replacement of eponyms with more descriptive terms underscores the need for translators to possess not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of medical science and the ethical considerations that shape medical nomenclature.

Future research could explore the comparative usage of eponyms in psychiatry across different languages and cultures, as well as the effectiveness of various strategies for translating both eponyms and their descriptive alternatives. Ultimately, medical education and translation training should prioritize equipping professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the historical context of eponyms alongside the principles of contemporary medical terminology to ensure effective communication and the ethical dissemination of medical knowledge in an ever-evolving field.

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