

## **COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN SCIENTIFIC TEXTS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH DOMAIN**

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*Prezenta lucrare conține informație despre stilul științific și caracteristicile acestuia; tipuri și caracteristici ale textelor științifice engleze; clasificarea celor trei tipuri de stil științific: stilul științific propriu, stilul științific metodologic și stilul științific popular, și caracteristicile acestora. De asemenea, sunt descrise caracteristicile lexicale, gramaticale și stilistice ale textelor științifice. Aceste particularități trebuie luate în considerare la analiza comparativă și în procesul de traducere a textelor științifice.*

Throughout history, English has developed till it has reached the present-day position as a language for international communication and, especially a language of science and technology. Science is often hard to read. Most people assume that its difficulties are born out of necessity, out of the

extreme complexity of scientific concepts, data and analysis. The purpose of science as a branch of human activity is to disclose by research the inner substance of things and phenomena of objective reality and find out the laws regulating them, thus enabling man to predict, control and direct their future development in order to improve the material and social life of mankind. The language of science is governed by the aim of the functional style of scientific prose, which is to prove a hypothesis, to create new concepts, to disclose the internal laws of existence, development, relations between different phenomena etc. The style of scientific prose is therefore characterized by the language means which tend to be objective, precise, unemotional and devoid of any individuality.

Scientific writings can be of different types that are meant for different purposes, thus we distinguish three types of scientific style: *scientific style proper*, *scientific methodological style* and *popular scientific style*.

The most distinctive lexical features of scientific texts are: the use of lexical categories such as: verbs of exposition, verbs of warning and advising, verbs of manipulation, adjectival modifiers; the use of common scientific words and expressions and the use of terms peculiar to a given branch of science: *nervous system*, *nutrition*, *metabolism*, *syndrome* etc.

Among grammatical categories we distinguish the following ones: wide use of passive constructions; use of modal verbs; use of impersonal structures; use of pronoun “we” instead of “I”; use of attributive groups and wide use of connectors.

Scientific texts are also characterized by stylistic features such as: the use of language units which tend to be objective, precise, unemotional and devoid of any individuality; the exact and accurate presentation of material and almost absolute lack of such expressive means like: metaphors, metonymies and other stylistic devices; objective presentation of information by the author; non-deviation from linguistic norms and the use of questions in the discourse in order to catch the readers’ quick response.

English and Romanian scientific texts from public health domain were classified into three groups: informative texts, methodological texts and research texts, in order to be analyzed separately.

The goal of a scientific informative text is to convey cognitive information. Informative texts can be of different types, but we have focused our attention on instructions for medicines. During the research we have observed the following features peculiar to scientific texts: the use of pronoun “you” which helps to establish close communication with the reader and make him/her follow the advice. E.g.: *The name of your medicine is Spironolactone; Do NOT take Spironolactone Tablets and tell your doctor if you...* [2]. Considering the Romanian instruction for Spironolactone, there is

not present this close relation with the reader. E.g.: *denumirea comercială: Spironolactonă* [3]. The information here is presented in a neutral manner. Another feature to consider is the use of Imperative Mood, e.g.: *Do not take this medicine if any of the above apply to you...; Before you take Spironolactone Tablets tell your doctor if you...* [2]. In the Romanian variant, again, this peculiarity is not so widely observed. Here we have just few examples as: *Se va evita aportul în organism a unei cantități sporite de kaliu; Nu se recomandă administrarea spironolactonei concomitent cu alte diuretice; A se păstra la loc uscat, ferit de lumină, la temperatura 15-25°C* [3]. Another difference observed in scientific texts is that English instructions are more detailed and pay greater attention to the rules while Romanian instructions are shorter with few details.

Methodological texts have the aim to provide research on a particular subject, in our case AIDS/HIV, to teach (how and what to do?), and to give recommendations. During the comparative analysis we have observed the following features: the use of passive constructions, it has the aim to inform the audience in an objective manner. E.g.: *this is how HIV is spread – așa se răspândește HIV* [1]; *HIV is found in the blood and the sexual fluids of an infected person, and in the breast milk of an infected woman. Virusul HIV se găsește în sângele și fluidele sexuale ale persoanei infectate, precum și în laptele mamelor infectate* [1]. In these examples we observe that in English variant passive voice is used, while in Romanian – reflexive. Another typical feature that catches attention is the frequent use of questions in the organization of discourse: *What is HIV? What's AIDS?* [1] – *Ce este HIV? Ce este SIDA?* [1]. This strong rhetorical device is used as it enables the author to catch the readers' attention, quick response, and prepare their minds for what follows.

Research texts such as: articles, conference papers, review, and diploma documents are peculiar to the scientific style proper. But we have focused our attention on articles which serve as means of publishing results of research or development to the community. During our research among some major features we have found the following ones: wide use of passive constructions which express objective views with the focus on particular data and phenomena. E.g.: *All the counties of the Central region are covered by sanitary mediators, but each mediator serves between 6411 inhabitants in Sibiu district and 60702 inhabitants in Alba district* [4]. In the English variant it is used passive voice but in the Romanian one passive voice is replaced by active: *În toate județele regiunii Centru există acoperire cu mediatori sanitari, dar pentru fiecare mediator revine o populație între 6411 locuitori în județul Sibiu și 60.702 locuitori în județul Alba* [5]. Even if in the Romanian article the passive voice is not preserved the information is also expressed in an objective manner.

In the course of comparative analysis we observed that expressive means are avoided in all types of scientific texts and the information is presented in an objective manner. Also we have found out that the most common features of scientific and technical texts can be presented as follows: saturation with specific terms and terminological units; presence of peculiar grammatical and lexical structures and different frequency of certain parts of speech usage.

In conclusion we can state that dealing with scientific texts the translator should follow certain rules: be precise and objective; avoid omissions and additions and preserve the features of scientific style.

### ***References:***

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*Recomandat  
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