Н.А. Трощинская
ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ АННОТАЦИЙ К НАУЧНЫМ СТАТЬЯМ, НАПИСАННЫХ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ НЕНОСИТЕЛЯМИ ЯЗЫКА

Научный руководитель: ст. преп. О.И. Сахнова
Кафедра иностранных языков
Белорусский государственный медицинский университет, г. Минск

N.A. Trashchynskaya
A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH ABSTRACTS OF NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS

Tutor: senior teacher O.I. Sakhnova
Department of Foreign languages
Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk

Резюме. В статье обсуждается вопрос о качестве английского языка, используемого в аннотациях к научным статьям, написанных неносителями на английском языке. Представленное исследование описывает типичные ошибки авторов, использующих английский язык в качестве иностранного, при помощи многопрофильного статистического и лингвистического анализа множества аннотаций из медицинских журналов.

Ключевые слова: научные аннотации, лингвистика, хороший английский.

Abstract. The article discusses the problem of the quality of English language in scientific abstracts written in English by non-native speakers. The study presented describes typical errors of the authors using English as a foreign language by means of comprehensive statistical and linguistic analysis of numerous abstracts from medical scientific articles.

Keywords: scientific abstracts, linguistics, good English.

Relevance. Provided the requirement of "Good English'" is mandatory for international publications and the fact that Russian speaking authors are highly motivated to ensure international access to their articles, the study is relevant in terms of pinpointing a number of characteristic features of non-authentic English abstracts with an emphasis on mistakes being made for future improvement thereof.

Aim: The study mainly focuses on the comparison between the abstracts of medical scientific articles which have been translated into English from Russian and those of native English speaking authors. Therefore, it aims at identifying the differences in the linguistic means used by authentic and non-authentic English authors in terms of their effect on the quality of English.

The aim stated presupposes the following objectives.

Objectives:

1. To carry out the statistical analysis of the authentic and non-authentic English abstracts.

2. To conduct the linguistic analysis of the original (both English and Russian) and translated abstracts.

3. To compare the quality of language used by native English-speaking authors and that of Russian-speaking authors.

УДК 61:615.1(06)
ББК 5:72
А 43
ISBN 978-985-21-1009-9

Актуальные проблемы современной медицины и фармации-2022
БГМУ, Минск (20.04 – 21.04)

Materials and methods. Textual analysis, primary data analysis, quantitative and qualitative analysis, comparative analysis, exploratory analysis, linguistic analysis, statistical analysis were used in the course of research.

Results and discussion. Having analyzed the number of words per text and the number of words per sentence I have noticed a certain pattern of fluctuation of the word count, which will be fully examined and explained below.
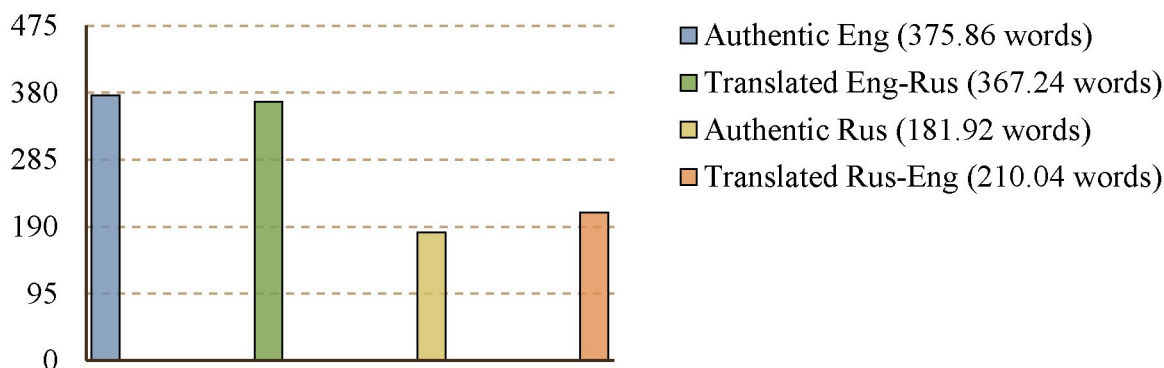

Fig. 1 – Text Word Count

The bar graph (Fig. 1) presents the difference in word count between native, non-native and translated abstracts. A comparison of the collected data shows that the overall number of words used in the authentic Russian abstracts (181.92 words) is lower than that of their translations into English (210.04 words). To confirm this finding I carried out an experiment by using YandexTranslator application for reverse English-Russian translation. Similarly, it turned out that the word count of the authentic English abstracts (375.86 words) appeared slightly higher as compared to the same texts translated into Russian via YandexTranslator (367.24 words).
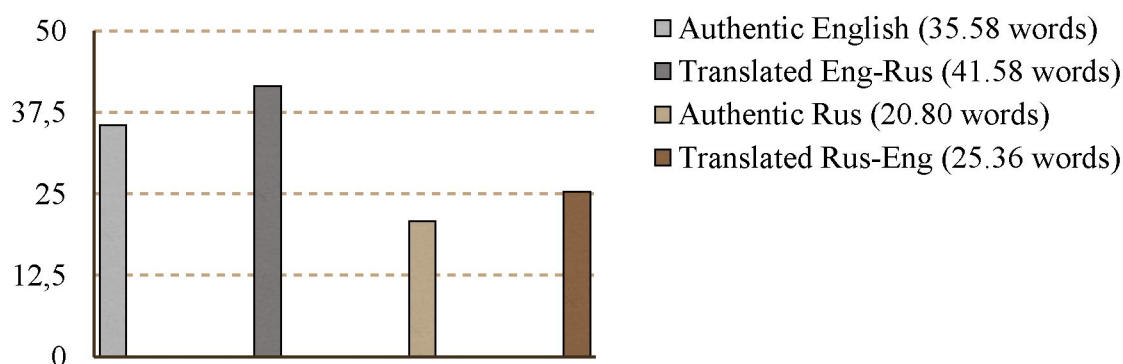

Fig. 2 – Word Count in One Sentence

The diagram (Fig. 2) manifests the fluctuation of word count when comparing only one sentence of an abstract. In authentic Russian texts (20.80 words) and translated (into English) sentences (25.36 words) the tendency illustrated in the previous graph persists. However, the analysis of the quantity of words in one sentence of authentic English (35.58 words) and translated (into Russian) abstracts (41.58 words) showed that the number of

words in translated texts exceeded that of originally written ones. It can be explained by the abuse of prepositional phrases by non-native authors.

Furthermore, during the analysis minor grammar and lexical errors were found in the texts. This observation can be made in such texts due to the existence of grammatical interference. This is associated with 2 conditions:

1. The volume of meaning and usage of grammatical units do not coincide (e.g. Passive Voice).

2. Grammatical units exist only in one of the studied languages (e.g. Grammatical Gender in Russian only, Articles in English only).

Table.1. Word Count discrepancies occurring in translated texts

Russian	English
В данной статье представлен клинический случай пациента с опухолью (плазмацитомой) второго шейного позвонка, которому одномоментно задним доступом было произведено удаление тела, пораженного опухолью второго шейного позвонка, с последующей фиксацией.	This article presents *a* clinical case *of a* patient with a tumor (plasmacytoma) *of the* second cervical vertebra, which was removed *by* simultaneously posterior approach *to the* body *of the* second cervical vertebra affected *by the* tumor, followed by fixation.

In terms of statistics it is evident that the higher word count in the sentence translated from Russian into English has been achieved due to the existence of such grammatical categories as prepositions and articles in English, the former being different from the usage of prepositions in Russian and more developed because of the underdevelopment of Cases in English. Concerning Articles they are totally absent in Russian which leads to numerous errors in the texts of non-native English speakers. (See Table. 1).

Table. 2. The errors in translation and the corrected option (part 1)

The translation presented originally	The corrected version of the translation
В данной статье представлен клинический случай пациента с опухолью (плазмацитомой) второго шейного позвонка, которому одномоментно задним доступом было произведено удаление тела, пораженного опухолью второго шейного позвонка, с последующей фиксацией. This article presents a clinical case of a patient with a tumor (plasmacytoma) of the second cervical vertebra, **which was removed** by **simultaneously** posterior approach to the body of the second cervical vertebra affected by the tumor, followed by fixation.	This article presents a clinical case of a patient with a tumor (plasmacytoma) of the second cervical vertebra, *its body affected by the tumor having been removed* by a single posterior approach followed by fixation.

The program has failed to recognise the word relationship in passive structures, which has led to the appearance of false subject-predicate passive collocations if compared with original relationships in the corresponding subject-predicate phrases in the Russian sentence. The reason lies in the fact that in the English language there is no such category as 'Gender'. The Russian word "которому" is directly connected with the word "пациент" due to the proper ending of the masculine gender. On the contrary, 'which' in English has no gender, but is related only to inanimate objects. It resulted in the shift of the subject described by the predicate 'was removed' to another noun unlike the original Russian subject-predicate group. (See Table. 2).

Table. 3. The errors in translation and the corrected option (part 2)

The translation presented originally	The corrected version of the translation
В данной статье представлен клинический случай пациента с опухолью (плазмацитомой) второго шейного позвонка, которому одномоментно задним доступом было произведено удаление тела, пораженного опухолью второго шейного позвонка, с последующей фиксацией. This article presents a clinical case of a patient with a tumor (plasmacytoma) of the second cervical vertebra, **which was removed** by **simultaneously** posterior approach to the body of the second cervical vertebra affected by the tumor, *followed by fixation*.	This article presents a clinical case of a patient with a tumor (plasmacytoma) of the second cervical vertebra, ***its body affected by the tumor having been removed*** by a single posterior approach *followed by fixation.*

The problem discussed above has inflicted further logical errors as a result of domino effect. In detail, the word 'body' has lost its function of the Subject in relation to the Predicate 'was removed' resulting in the attachment of the word 'body' to the phrase 'approach to', thus violating the logic of the sentence. Further on, it led to the wrong assignment of the past participle group 'followed by fixation'. (See Table. 3).

Conclusions: the translation of non-authentic abstracts into English is essential for sharing the results of scientific studies and research conducted locally with the international community. The analysis of the abstracts has revealed the following:

1. The research shows that the number of words used to outline the findings noticeably differs between authentic (English), non-authentic (translated into English) and Russian texts, increasing from the authentic Russian abstract to the authentic English one.

2. The difference in the word count even between the authors' translations and Yandex translations, which contain more words, might be explained by the incorrect use of English prepositional phrases and articles by Russian authors.

3. Even insignificant mistakes persisting in Russian translations of scientific text can negatively affect the comprehension of the text and violate both the logic of the text and, consequently, the rule of 'Good English'.

Literature

1.Одноэтапное удаление опухоли тела С2 позвонка задним доступом [Текст]* / Т.Т. Керимбаев (проф., д.м.н.), Е.А. Урунбаев, В.Г. Алейников и др. // Нейрохирургия и неврология Казахстана – 2021. – №1(62). – С. 34-39.

2.Диагностика лёгкой черепно-мозговой травмы на основе офтальмологических и серологических исследований [Текст]* / К.Б. Ырысов, Ш.Ж. Машрапов, Э. Алик кызы и др. // Нейрохирургия и неврология Казахстана – 2021. – №1(62). – С. 3-9.

3.Сахнова, О.И. Грамматическая интерференция родного языка при составлении аннотаций на английском языке к научным статьям медицинской тематики / О.И. Сахнова. - Текст : электронный // Медицинский дискурс: вопросы теории и практики: Сборник статей по материалам 9-й Междунар. науч.-практ. и образов. конф. (8-9 апреля 2021 года). - Тверь, 2021. - С. 228-234.