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SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE EXPRESSION OF PAIN IN ENGLISH

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Relevance. The interpretation of the pain that the patient feels requires the use of a number of doctor's skills, not only instrumental, but also communicative. The ability to interpret pain from the patient's words correctly is a measure of medical professionalism.

Aim: to identify the ways of expressing pain in English from an objective and subjective point of views and methods of interpreting patients' complaints about pain by a doctor.

Materials and methods. A sample of nouns denoting the concept of "pain" in English was made. The contexts of the use of these nouns in professional medical texts were analyzed.

Results and discussion. In English, there are several words that express pain in its various characteristics (in this study we are speaking about physical pain). Among them two nouns are the most common: "Ache" and "Pain".

As it is known, pain is perceived differently by the doctor and the patient. For the patient, this is a painful experience, sufferings. For a doctor, it is a symptom, the correct assessment of which helps the doctor to make a diagnosis. Therefore, pain can be described both subjectively and objectively.

Objectively, pain (mainly from the point of view of a doctor) is assessed taking into account the following characteristics: localization, duration, degree of manifestation.

The nouns given above can be used to describe pain, both subjectively and objectively.

Analysis of the contexts of the use of the two above-mentioned nouns showed that these nouns already in their semantics or syntactic compatibility contain indications of some objective characteristics of pain. For example, the noun "Ache" expresses a week (degree of manifestation), prolonged (duration) sensation, the source of which (localization) is stated by the first part of the compound nouns, in which the word most often functions. Thus, the noun "Ache" already in its semantics contains an indication of objective characteristics. There is no subjectivity expressed. It can be noted that the noun "Ache" itself indicates a disease of an organ, a synonym for this noun is the word "problem, condition, disease", this is proved by the fact that the following contexts are often found: "Body aches: Causes and treatments", "Most headaches are easily treated". But, as you know, pain is not treated; it is only possible to treat a disease or condition. You can also sometimes see the direct equating of the noun "Ache" with nouns naming some medical conditions, for example, "back ache, i.e. lumbar syndrome".

The noun "pain", having no hidden indications of the localization, degree, duration of pain, is often accompanied by other means that characterize pain: adjectives to express objectively the degree of manifestation (mild, moderate, severe – the McGill Pain Questionnaire) and duration / frequency (chronic/acute, persistent / constant / continuous / stable / intermittent / recurrent / periodic / rhythmic / brief / momentary / transient) or nouns to localize the pain (chest pain, neck pain, pelvic pain).

The subjective characteristic of pain is how pain is perceived by the patient based on his own feelings. A wide range of adjectives is used in English to describe pain. For example the McGill Pain Questionnaire lists 20 categories of 3-6 adjectives by which pain can be described by a patient.

Conclusions. The pain in English can be expressed using individual nouns or combinations of nouns with other parts of speech, specifying objectively or subjectively one or another type of pain depending on the origin, nature, location, duration and other factors. In the medical aspect, the understanding of pain is of key importance in the diagnosis and treatment.