

Vanteeva D. D., Dubovik V. V.

RUSSIAN ALIMENTARY METAPHORS IN CLINICAL TERMINOLOGY

Tutor Doctor of Philology, professor Sokolova A. Y.

Department of Belarusian and Russian Languages

Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk

Introduction. Metaphor is a technique that involves transferring the properties of one object (phenomenon) to another on the basis of common or similar characteristics. Metaphors were actively used in medical terminology for the names of anatomical structures back in the time of Aristotle. Metaphoric terms are widely represented in various fields of medicine now.

Aim: to find out whether a certain type of metaphor is used in the formation of clinical medical terms in the Russian language associated with pathological processes, to analyze metaphorical terms and determine their role.

Materials and methods. Scientific articles, educational and encyclopedic manuals presented in open sources were analyzed. The study included a selection of Russian alimentary metaphors (from the Latin word “alimentum” - nutrition, food), naming the signs, symptoms and diseases themselves. Metaphors were divided into groups. The most frequently used alimentary metaphors are identified and their function is established.

Results and discussion. The study identified 45 alimentary metaphors in clinical terminology. A classification of metaphorical terms was made, based, firstly, on similar features which were the basis of the metaphorical transfer and, secondly, on the object of metaphorization.

According to the first classification, all terms were divided into the following groups: 1) appearance (pattern, surface structure); 2) shape; 3) consistency/internal structure; 4) color; 5) smell. As a result, most of the terms were assigned to the first group (19 terms - 42.2%): orange peel “апельсиновая корка” - appearance of the skin due to occlusion of lymphatic vessels and lymph stagnation in breast cancer. The least numerous group was the last one (2 terms - 4%): leucinosis - maple syrup disease «болезнь кленового сиропа» that received this name due to the fact that the urine excreted by a sick child has a sweet, maple syrup-like odor. The remaining groups included about 10 terms each (approximately 18%): “shape” – strawberry skull «клубничный череп» - the shape of the skull in trisomy; “consistency/structure” – glazed spleen «глазированная селезенка» - thickening of the spleen capsule; “color” – milk leg «молочная нога» - swollen pale painful limb. It should be noted that a number of terms fall under several signs at once, most often color and consistency are combined, for example, currant jelly «смородиновое желе» - sputum streaked with blood and mucus in case of infection with *Klebsiella* or bronchogenic carcinoma.

According to the object of metaphorization all terms were divided into the following groups:

- Fruits (11 examples - 24.4%): watermelon stomach «арбузный желудок» - ectasia of the veins of the antrum of the stomach.

- Vegetables (4 examples - 9%): cauliflower «цветная капуста» - genital warts.

- Berries / seeds / nuts / cereal (9 examples - 20%): rice water «рисовый отвар» - cholera stool with white lumps of mucus resembling grains of rice.

- Type of product / drink / method of preparation (21 examples - 46.6%): apple jelly «яблочное желе» - a symptom of tuberculous lupus, when brownish masses resembling apple jelly appear when pressed.

Conclusions. The study showed that alimentary metaphors are widely used in clinical terminology in Russian. The most common are metaphors based on the similarity in appearance and type of product, drink and method of preparation. Metaphors make it possible to visually represent a particular sign or symptom, which makes it easier to remember and recognize them in the practical activities of a doctor. It should also be noted that metaphors are always the reflection of national consciousness which means that they are different in different countries and languages.