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MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN ENGLISH: TERMINOLOGY

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Relevance. Medical specialists are experts in certain fields of medicine. They either treat specific parts of the body or they specialize in certain diseases. The names of the specialist are the part of the terminological system of the professional medical language. There are different ways to form medical terminology and to achieve high level of communicative professional competence it is necessary to know them.

Aim: to analyze the names of medical specialists in English from the point of view of their formation, to determine the main models of term formation in this field. The object of the study was the terms, naming doctors of different specialties in English.

Materials and methods. In the process of the study a selection of medical specialist's names in English was carried out. The terms were analyzed from the point of view of their formation, groups characterized by the common character of formal features and origin were singled out. The ways of word formation used in the studied area in English were correlated with the models in Latin, which served as the basis for the formation of medical English.

Results and their discussion. In Latin, the names of medical professions are formed morphologically with the help of two term-elements: -logus and -iater.

As the research has shown, affixation, namely the suffixation, is most often used to form the names of specialists in English. Several suffixes with the help of which the formation of terms of the specified sphere takes place have been revealed. The most productive suffix is the suffix -ist. This word-forming element means «one who does smth». It is used to form new nouns from the nouns already present in the language denoting the scientific field: cardiology - cardiologist, oncology - oncologist. The number of specialist names formed with this suffix is 41 out of 51 examples. In the majority of cases (34 out of 41) the suffix -ist is attached to the root of the word ending in -log. In the remaining examples the suffix is attached directly to the root denoting the object of activity: dentist, orthodontist, geneticist (genetics + -ist), therapist (therapy + -ist) or the field of activity: psychiatrist (psychiatry + -ist).

The second most frequently used (6 examples) is the suffix -(ic)ian. In this case, all examples fall into two subgroups:

1) Those formed according to the model of the term «paediatric - paediatrician» (adjective + suffix -ian). This word-forming element, meaning "pertaining to", is derived from the Latin adjectival suffix -an.

2) Those formed on the model of the term «physician (noun + suffix -ian)», which was borrowed in 1200 from Old French fisicien "physician, healer, sage" from Latin physica "natural science". The terms beautician and dietician belong to this group.

We also identified few terms (1-2 examples each) which represent such ways of term formation as borrowing (surgeon), back formation (osteopath), syntactic way of term formation (infectious disease specialist).

It is also necessary to note the presence of double names, such as geriatrician and gerontologist. Gerontologist is a researcher with extensive knowledge in the field of human aging, engaged in research on age-related diseases. A geriatrician is a physician who specializes in the treatment and prevention of age-related diseases of the elderly.

Thus, the two most productive models of term formation in the sphere of names of medical specialists in English correlate with Latin terminological elements: -(log)ist is used if we are talking about a representative of the scientific sphere (from Latin -logia), the suffix -(iatric)ian indicates the practical direction of the specialist's activity.

Conclusions. The analysis of the names of medical specialists in English has allowed us to draw conclusions that the most widespread way of term formation in this sphere is the morphological way, namely the suffixation.