

English drilling slang: correlation of semantics and translation

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Abstract. *The thesis dwells on establishing the principal semantic peculiarities of the English drilling slang as well as the ways of rendering it into Ukrainian. Particular attention is paid to the correlation of certain ways of secondary nomination, which are used to form the semantics of drilling slangisms, and the corresponding ways of their translation.*

Keywords: *lexical unit, terminological lexeme, (drilling) slang, slangism, metaphor (metaphoric transfer), metonymy (metonymic transfer), narrowing of the meaning, explication (descriptive translation), functional equivalent.*

1. Terminological lexemes of scientific and technical discourse, representing the concepts of a particular professional field of science or technology, constitute one of the main problems of translation due to their semantic ambiguity, inter- and intra-industry homonymy, lack of translation equivalents (in the case of neologisms, jargon terms, slang terms, etc.) (Karaban V. [3], Korunets I. [4], Vorobiova O. [1], Manhura S., Palii K., Mykhailova M. [5]).

2. The relevance of this study is accounted for by the dynamic development of the oil and gas industry, strengthening of international relations, globalization and investment processes in this sector, which, in turn, lead to the emergence of a large number of highly specialized terms, including professional slangisms. That is why the translation of these lexical units, in particular slang words used in the oil and gas drilling industry, requires special attention at present.

3. The process of collecting special words used in drilling industry started in the USA at the beginning of the 20th century, and can be referred to the publishing of two articles by Clarke S. Northup, professor at the Cornell University, in the *Dialect Notes* – the periodical journal of American Dialect Society (Northup C. [7]).

4. The most important part of this collection is made up by lexical units which designate mechanisms, professions, names for oil, jobs and operations in the industry. Such lexemes, which are primarily regarded as drilling slangisms, can also develop meanings, far from being attached to oil and gas industry, for example, *bottling-works* = illicit saloons; *The Greaser* – ‘extra train between Pittsburgh and Dennison where passengers were mostly oilmen’; *Harlem oil* – ‘medicine based on oil’.

5. Semantic analysis of the drilling slang [6, 8–10] has revealed that among the lexemes under study most units were formed by lexical and semantic means, in particular through metaphoric and metonymic transfers, as well as narrowing of already existing non-terminological meanings (Doroshenko S. [2], Tsymbal N. [11]).

5.1. In particular, the following metaphors are distinguished in the empirical material under consideration: the so-called “household” metaphors, e.g.: *belt* ‘an area that includes the supposed channel of underground oil flows’ (similarity of form), *jar* ‘a drilling tool made of a pair of elongated and flattened links built to slide freely together’ (similarity of form and function); zoomorphic metaphors, e.g.: *claw* ‘a device with a hydraulic jack for pulling out a pipe’ (similarity of form and function), *whale* ‘a well that produces large amounts of oil’; anthropomorphic metaphors, e.g.: *arm* ‘a part of drilling equipment, such as a ribbon wheel, etc.’ (similarity in form and function); *bone-coal* ‘hard, black slate’ from *bone*, which is ‘one of the hard parts of the skeleton of an animal or a human’ (similarity in quality – ‘to be hard’); “profession” metaphors which imply similarity to the activities performed by a person, e.g.: *traveler* ‘a part of a jack used to twist and untwist tools’, *fisherman* ‘a specialist who retrieves stuck tools that cannot be removed from the well during a normal drilling operation’.

5.2. The narrowing of the meaning is evident in the following examples: *cap* ‘top of a rock’ ← ‘natural covering or top’; *pool* ‘hypothetical oil lake’ ← ‘a small and fairly deep body of usually fresh water’.

5.3. Metonymic transfer is the least productive of the three methods mentioned above, but a few examples illustrating this semantic way of word formation, in particular within the group of drilling slangisms, can be cited here: the lexeme *run in* as a phrasal verb means ‘to run a pipe into a hole’, and in the status of a noun *run-in* can be defined as ‘the turn of the drill pipe in the hole’ respectively.

6. Taking into account the way semantic peculiarities of slang lexicon in the field of well drilling being formed, in particular, given the presence of expressive imagery characteristics of this bulk of vocabulary, it can be stated that the main ways of translating the lexemes under analysis are explication (descriptive translation), e.g.: *whale* ‘свердловина, яка дає велику кількість нафти’ which equals in English to ‘a well that produces a large amount of oil’; *wild cat* ‘нерозроблена свердловина’, i.e. ‘undeveloped well’, and explication with the use of a functional equivalent, the latter involving the use of imagery and associativity in translation, which is more typical for the Ukrainian consciousness and mentality, e.g.: *Christmas tree* ‘фонтанна арматура’ (‘fountain fittings’ in English), *thief hatch* ‘пробовідбірний люк’ (‘hatch

for taking samples' in English), *kelly* 'квадрат (тобто провідна бурильна труба, що має форму квадрата)' which can be defined as 'a drill pipe that is shaped like a square'.

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