

The terminology of German philosophy: linguistic structures and the problem of translation into Ukrainian

Svitlana Kiyko

Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4964-7043>

Abstract. *This study analyzes the linguistic structures of German philosophical terminology and the challenges of its translation into Ukrainian. Using a contrastive and corpus-based approach, it identifies patterns of equivalence and proposes category-specific translation strategies. The research aims to develop a comprehensive German–Ukrainian philosophical dictionary and contributes to the standardization of Ukrainian philosophical language and academic discourse.*

Keywords: *philosophical terminology, translation strategies, German-Ukrainian, contrastive linguistics, corpus-based lexicography.*

The philosophical tradition of the German-speaking world has, over the centuries, produced a highly complex and differentiated system of terminology that has not only significantly shaped European intellectual history but continues to influence international philosophical discourse today. Terms such as *Dasein* "being", *Weltanschauung* "worldview", *Bewusstsein* "consciousness", *Bildung* "cultivation", and *Aufklärung* "enlightenment" have become universal philosophical categories. Their adequate transfer into other linguistic and cultural systems remains one of the key challenges in philosophical translation.

The translation of German philosophical terminology into Ukrainian is particularly problematic, as it involves the interaction of two fundamentally different language systems: German, a Germanic language with a highly developed capacity for compounding, and Ukrainian, a Slavic language with a distinct morphological and semantic structure. Additionally, Ukrainian philosophical terminology has historically been shaped by diverse influences – including Church Slavonic, Polish, Russian, and more recently English – resulting in a heterogeneous and often inconsistent terminological system.

A systematic investigation of the challenges involved in translating German philosophical terminology into Ukrainian is not only of theoretical interest to translation studies but also of immediate practical relevance for the compilation of bilingual dictionaries, the translation of philosophical texts, and the development of an independent Ukrainian philosophical vocabulary.

The aim of this research project is to analyze the terminological systems of German philosophy in their linguistic structure and to develop systematic approaches for their translation into Ukrainian. Both structural differences between the languages and cultural-conceptual divergences will be taken into account.

Research on German-Ukrainian translation issues is still in its early stages. Foundational works by Korunets [11] on contrastive linguistics and Chernovaty [14] on translation theory have laid important groundwork, but primarily focus on general linguistic phenomena. Specific studies dealing with the translation of philosophical terminology are largely lacking. In the field of Ukrainian terminology studies, the works of D'yakov, Kiyak, and Kudelko [10] on the foundations of terminology, as well as those of Panko, Kochan, and Matsiuk [13] on terminological standards, are noteworthy. However, these primarily address technical and natural science terminology.

Research on German philosophical terminology has a longer tradition. Landmark projects like the "Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie" [6] are predominantly historical in nature. Linguistic analyses, such as Müller's [5] study of 18th-century terminology and Schneider's [8] work on 19th-century concept formation, focus on specific periods.

Structural characteristics of German philosophical language have been explored by Fluck [3] and Roelcke [7] in the context of specialized language research. These studies highlight key features of German philosophical language:

- (1) High productivity in word formation, especially compounding and derivation,
- (2) Strong tendency toward nominalization,
- (3) Metaphorical concept formation drawn from diverse experiential domains,
- (4) Polysemy and context-dependent meaning variation.

Ukrainian philosophical terminology has developed under various historical influences. Shevelov [15] and Ohienko [12] document the development of Ukrainian specialized languages and show that philosophical terms originate from multiple sources:

- (1) Church Slavonic substratum: core metaphysical and ethical terms,
- (2) Polish influence (16th–18th centuries): scholastic terminology,
- (3) Russian influence (19th–20th centuries): terminology of German Idealism,
- (4) Independent developments: particularly in Ukrainian Romanticism and the 20th century.

This layering has led to terminological duplications and inconsistencies that further complicate the translation of German texts.

The methodological foundation of the project draws on approaches from contrastive terminology research as developed by Arntz, Picht, and Mayer [1], and Cabré [2]. Particularly relevant are studies on "equivalence problems" [4] and "cultural translation" [9], which show that terminological translation involves both linguistic and cultural transfer processes.

The primary goal of this study is the systematic analysis of the terminological systems of German philosophy and the development of scientifically grounded translation strategies for their transfer into Ukrainian. The findings will serve as the basis for a German-Ukrainian philosophical dictionary comprising approximately 20,000 terms and expressions.

The overarching objective of this study is to conduct a systematic linguistic and conceptual analysis of the terminological systems of German philosophy and to develop academically grounded translation strategies for their accurate and culturally sensitive transfer into Ukrainian. This goal arises from the urgent need for a consistent and coherent Ukrainian philosophical terminology that aligns both with the logic and precision of the German conceptual framework and with the structural characteristics of the Ukrainian language. The findings of this research are intended to serve as the scientific basis for the creation of a comprehensive German-Ukrainian philosophical dictionary encompassing approximately 20,000 entries, including terms and phraseological expressions. The dictionary is envisioned not only as a lexicographic tool but also as a model for cross-linguistic and cross-cultural knowledge transfer in the humanities.

To achieve this objective, the study addresses a set of specific research questions that reflect different levels of linguistic and conceptual analysis. First, the research seeks to understand how the terminological systems of German philosophy are internally structured. This involves examining the morphological, semantic, and conceptual relationships among key philosophical terms, as well as identifying patterns of word formation and categorization that are characteristic of the German philosophical tradition.

Secondly, a contrastive analysis will be undertaken to explore the structural and semantic differences between the German and Ukrainian terminological systems. This comparison aims to identify the main challenges in translation, including issues of asymmetry, conceptual gaps, and cultural specificity. In this context, particular attention will be paid to the historical development of Ukrainian philosophical vocabulary and its interaction with other linguistic traditions.

Thirdly, the study will examine the types of equivalence that can be established between German and Ukrainian philosophical terms. These may include full equivalence (where a direct and conceptually accurate counterpart exists), partial equivalence (where overlap exists but with semantic or stylistic differences), and non-equivalence or *lacunae* (where no adequate counterpart is available in the target language). The identification of such patterns will inform the selection of appropriate translation strategies.

A further research focus concerns the methods and procedures for rendering philosophical terms from German into Ukrainian. The study will evaluate the effectiveness and limitations of various translation techniques, including loan translation (*calque*), borrowing, neologism formation, and paraphrase. Each method will be considered in relation to specific categories of philosophical terminology—such as metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, aesthetic, and methodological concepts—with the aim of establishing category-specific translation strategies.

In addition, the project addresses the problem of cultural adaptation. Since many German philosophical terms are deeply rooted in specific intellectual traditions and cultural contexts, their successful transfer into Ukrainian requires more than linguistic

equivalence; it demands conceptual and cultural integration. The study will investigate how such adaptation can be achieved without sacrificing terminological precision or philosophical nuance.

Finally, the study will consider the lexicographic representation of philosophical terms. This includes the identification of optimal ways to present German-Ukrainian term pairs in a bilingual dictionary, such as the use of equivalence comments, etymological notes, illustrative examples, and cross-references. The goal is to ensure that the dictionary not only provides accurate translations but also serves as a didactic and reference tool for translators, students, and researchers.

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