

ԵՐԵՎԱՆԻ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱԼՍԱՐԱՆ  
YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY



# FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

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ՆՊԱՏԱԿՆԵՐԻ ՀԱՄԱՐ

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**Հրատարակության և երաշխավորել  
ԵՊՀ ռոմանագերմանական բանասիրության ֆակուլտետի  
գիտական խորհուրդը**

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Գիտական հոդվածների միջազգային ամսագիրը նպատակ ունի հավաքելու և ներկայացնելու Հայաստանի և Հայաստանից դուրս «Օտար լեզուները մասնագիտական նպատակների համար» (FLSP) ոլորտի մասնագետների մշակած ժամանակակից մեթոդները փորձի փոխանակման և դրանց հետագա զարգացման նպատակով:

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## **SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH IN THE PARADIGM OF THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION**

### **ABSTRACT**

The paper is dedicated to the discussion of some of the linguostylistic characteristic features of Scientific English which are required for the successful professional communication. The analysis is based on informative texts pertaining to the discipline of Medicine.

**Key words:** *lemma, monoreferentiality, scientific English, English for Special Purposes.*

### **РЕЗЮМЕ**

### **НАУЧНЫЙ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК В ПАРАДИГМЕ ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОЙ КОММУНИКАЦИИ**

Данная статья посвящена рассмотрению некоторых лингвостилистических особенностей научного английского языка, являющихся важными для эффективной профессиональной коммуникации. Анализ научного английского осуществляется на основе информативных текстов из области медицины.

**Ключевые слова:** *лемма, однозначность, научный английский язык, английский язык для специальных целей.*

### **ԱՄՓՈՓՈՒՄ**

### **ԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ԱՆԳԼԵՐԵՆԸ ՄԱՍՆԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՂՈՐԴԱԿՑՄԱՆ ՀԱՐԱՑՈՒՅՑՈՒՄ**

Սույն հոդվածը նվիրված է գիտական անգլերենի լեզվաոճական մի շարք բնորոշ առանձնահատկությունների քննությանը, որոնք անհրաժեշտ են արդյունավետ մասնագիտական հաղորդակցման համար: Վերլուծությունն իրա-

կանացվում է բժշկագիտության բնագավառից վերցված տեղեկատվական տեքստերի հիման վրա:

**Բանալի բառեր** – *իմաստային միավոր, մենիմաստություն, գիտական անգլերեն, անգլերենը հատուկ նպատակների համար:*

The problem of professional communication is especially urgent nowadays for very obvious social, political, economic and other reasons. To be able to learn and use the English language as a means of effective global communication, the learner requires to be acquainted with the language of his profession, the variety of special vocabulary and other linguostylistic devices to achieve his professional goals. This makes the process of learning more purposeful, and, consequently, enables worldwide specialists to become proficient in the required register for discussing their professional issues at different international conferences, on the pages of international publications, on which they can exchange their professional experience with the so-called “professional” community and follow the breakthroughs of their branch universally.

In order to understand how to use Scientific English effectively, it is of paramount importance to know the concept of Scientific English in its broader context. The basic nature of it is illuminated within two basic contexts: first, constituting a practical communication framework, a culture of writing, founded on certain professional aims and purposes, and second, a utilitarian attitude that cultivates ethic plainness in the use of scientific language.

Scientific English is usually defined as a communication tool, a culture of writing, a plain and readable manner of writing with specific compositional strategies and uses of language – all of which permit the community of scientific researchers to conduct the professional affairs. English for Special Purposes is a specific approach how to master the variety of a language for professional purposes and acquire the necessary skills to exchange scientific information. It, therefore, involves developing new kinds of literacy, equipping specialists with the necessary skills to participate in particular academic and professional activities with an appropriate choice and arrangement of words, grammatical oppositions, syntactic constructions and other linguistic features. The proficiency of this kind of language and the general extra-linguistic knowledge enable the learners to avoid the misunderstandings frequently occurring during the professional communication and enhance mutual understanding. In other words,

the Language of Science plays the role of the so-called “shared code” or the “shared knowledge” of linguistic conventions which determine the given type of discourse (Crystal, 2003; Godo, 2008; Gunnarson, 2009).

Terms are the indispensable units of the professional communication. The terminological application must be oriented towards the solution of specific needs and, therefore, it must take into account its recipients and the activities they plan to carry out by means of such a specific application. This leads us to think that despite the fact that professional terminology is characterized by monoreferentiality and semantic univocity in the standardized terminological glossaries, it is the circumstances of each situation that determine the type of application, their representation and even their means of dissemination. There are cases when the units of the general vocabulary demonstrate clearly how separate words can come to participate in the process of constructing speech and realize their colligational (morpho-syntactic) and collocational (lexical-phraseological) potentialities. The illustrated examples which come to prove the above said, are taken from the Patient Information Leaflets.

**Benign:** common meaning - *amiable, generous*, whereas in medical discourse it describes a tumor that does not invade and destroys the tissue in which it originates.

**Conceive:** common meaning - *to understand*, in medical discourse it means to become pregnant.

**Tenderness:** common meaning - *gentleness, kindness*. In medical discourse it is used in the meaning of painfulness.

**Culture:** common meaning - *the ideas, customs, and social behavior of a particular people or society*, in medical discourse it describes the propagation of microorganisms or of living tissue cells in media conducive to their growth.

**Director:** common meaning - *a person who is in charge of an activity, department, or organization*, in medical discourse it designates a grooved instrument for guiding a surgical instrument.

Interestingly, one and the same term may be used in two different disciplines with partially synonymous meanings. As far as the legal and medical professionals share identical semantic concepts, there are terms which are used in both disciplines (Hoppe, Kess, 1987; Hiltunen, 1991; Hutton, 2002).

P.H. Collin’s Dictionary of Law defines the noun **addict** as a person who is physically and mentally dependent on taking drugs regularly. According to



Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, **addict** means an individual who is given up to a habit, especially to the habitual use of alcohol or of a drug.

Black's Law Dictionary defines **alimant** as an allowance from the husband's estate for the support of the wife. In Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary it means food or nutritive material.

The noun **examination** in P.H. Collin's Dictionary of Law means asking someone questions to find out facts, such as the questioning of a prisoner by a magistrate. In Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary it is used to mean inspection or investigation, especially as means of diagnosing disease etc.

Another typical feature of Scientific English is the use of compound nominal phrases. Many linguists rightly point out that the use of compound nominal phrases promotes concise referencing and discourse cohesion and coherence. Nominalization allows the scientists to pack densely complex information into a compact unit. Generally compound noun phrases are not made up of more than six nouns. Besides adjectives, the pre-modifying elements of the noun phrase may consist of nouns, adverbs, participles, hyphenated phrases or a mixture of these as the following instances show: *antibody-dependent cell-mediated tumor; metastatic androgen-independent prostate cancer; metformin-associated lactic acidosis; diabetes-related emotional stress; drug injecting behaviour; functional insertion and deletion polymorphism; difficult-to-measure variables...*

Very often compound noun phrases made up of two or more short nouns become a single word; at first they are used separately or in the hyphenated form, then they are written as a single compound word. In order to decode them it is not sufficient to know the syntactic rules of a language but mainly to be acquainted with the semantic values of each lemma making a compound noun phrase. For example:

*Different people may have different physical, pathological, psychological and emotional reactions under the same natural or social environment...the **life information** that originated from human bodies can be divided into two categories as **biological information** (organic **bioinformation**) and social one (**psychological information** and **psychobioinformation**). The coexistence of biological and social information is typical of human being.*

In the example above, the technical terms **biological information** is transformed into **bioinformation** and the **psychological bioinformation** into

**psychobioinformation.** It must be noted, therefore, that compound noun phrases do not necessarily cause problems for the specialist reader. It is the major feature of the abstract language favoured by academic writers in general, and medical writers in particular.

It is important to point out that the structural characteristics of any piece of scientific work are considered to be another leading feature optimizing the logical coherence of scientific message. The medical researcher, as well as the legal drafter, sets before him a definite task which is to make a carefully thought-out impact on the reader. It is of great importance to mention that the desired effect of any piece of scientific writing is achieved by the manner the syntactical units are designed. The above said can be exemplified by the analysis of the compositional patterns of the following paragraph:

## **INFUSION THERAPY IN PATIENT CARE**

### ***Background***

*An extremely common experience that most patients encounter is receiving some form of infusion therapy. Due to the invasive nature of any intravenous-related procedure, the potential risk of a patient developing a complication is high.*

### ***Objectives***

1. **Discuss** the current trends in infusion therapy.
2. **Discuss** the clinical applications of standards of practice used in caring for patients receiving infusion therapy.
3. **Discuss** the impact infusion teams have on safe patient care.
4. **Discuss** the importance of clinical competency in infusion nursing practice.

### ***Design and Methods***

*While infusion therapy is a common patient procedure, the understanding of the scope of the practice, including the associated risks, is not well understood. Just as important that the nurse has knowledge of the purpose of the infusion therapy, the nurse must demonstrate competencies for safe patient care delivery. Standards of practice, policies and procedures, and guidelines, based on current research and evidence-based practices, are available and must be applied to clinical practice.*

### ***Conclusion***

*The scope of infusion nursing practice is broad to meet patient needs and provide safe, quality care. By integrating standards into clinical practice and maintaining clinical competency, adverse events can be minimized or eliminated while achieving positive patient outcomes.*

As we see the paragraphs in medical articles are very unique in their compositional pattern. They are composed of four subpoints named **Background, Objectives, Design and Methods, and Conclusion.**

The **Background** which is the first part of the whole paragraph introduces the overall idea or, otherwise called, the topic sentence of the paragraph. It embodies the main idea of the whole paragraph and is interpreted as a key sentence disclosing the chief thought of the drafter.

The second part, which is called **Objectives**, represents a series of events and processes according to the order of importance. One of the typical characteristic features is the repetition of the words, which carry a certain emphatic nature in order to concentrate the reader's attention on what measures should be taken. The above illustrated example, consists of four points (Objectives), each of which represents an imperative sentence, the verb *discuss* repeated each time.

The **Design and Method** part is a mixture of explanation, evaluation and definition. That part of the paragraph usually begins with making judgments about ideas and possible actions. Here, the author makes his evaluation based on certain criteria that he develops. Then it is accompanied by explanatory sentences, which explain and explore the possible causes and effects of certain events.

And the finalizing sentence can be considered as defining as it directs the writer and defines what should be done academically. The **concluding part** summarizes the information that has been presented. From the above mentioned example we can see that in the concluding part the author makes the justification of infusion nursing practice, speaks about the necessary need the patient should meet as well as points out implicitly that the above mentioned points of the paragraph are important, in the sense they support the necessary quality care. Besides, the author also encourages the readers (his colleagues) to follow his instructions in order to minimize the adverse events and achieve positive patient outcomes.

Thus, we come to the conclusion that the professional communication is characterized by the application of certain linguistic conventions and linguostylistic devices which secure the objective interpretation of facts and finding as well as discourse cohesion and coherence.

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