

Important Classification in Medical Terminology and Methods of its Study

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Annotation: The article examines the lexico-grammatical features of Latin word-forming suffixes used in the formation of medical terminology. A classification of suffixes according to their semantic and morphological functions is presented, along with examples of anatomical, clinical, and pharmaceutical terms. In addition, a methodology for studying Latin suffixes is proposed, including systematization, comparison, contextual learning, and the use of modern educational technologies. The importance of knowledge of Latin word-formation models for medical students, pharmacists, and researchers in the field of biomedical sciences is emphasized.

Keywords: medical terminology, Latin language, suffixes, classification, methodology, noun, adjective, verb, word-formation.

Introduction

The Latin language has long been considered the foundation of medical science. It provides universality and precision of medical terminology, which is used in all countries regardless of national languages. The basis of medical vocabulary consists of terms of Latin and Greek origin, with suffixes playing a crucial role in their formation. Suffixes make it possible to create terms with new meanings, reflecting processes, properties, forms, diminutives, and more. For medical students, knowledge of suffixes models has practical significance: it facilitates understanding, memorization, and translation of medical terms, as well as the development of professional linguistic competence.

Classification of Latin Suffixes in Medical Terminology

a) Noun suffixes of diminutive meaning

- ul: lob-ulus (small lobe), ven-ula (venule), duct-ulus (small duct), capit-ulum (head, small head).
- cul: ossi-culum (small bone), canal-iculus (small canal), corpus-culum (small body), dent-iculus (small tooth).
- ol: arteri-ola (arteriole), bronchi-olus (bronchiole).
- ell: cereb-ellum (cerebellum), lam-ella (small plate).
- ill: mamm-illa (nipple).

b) Suffixes of action or process

- io (-tio, -sio, -xio): operati-o (operation), palpati-o (palpation), auscultati-o (auscultation).
- or (-tor, -sor, -xor): extens-or (extensor), constrict-or (constrictor), curat-or (curator).

c) Suffixes of the result of action

- ura: fract-ura (fracture), sut-ura (suture), fiss-ura (fissure), commiss-ura (junction).

d) Adjective suffixes

- Qualitative features: -osus (fibrosus, cavernosus), -icus (gastricus, thoracicus), -inus (uterinus), -eus (osseus, laryngeus).
- Resemblance and form: -ideus (deltoideus, styloideus), -formis (piriformis), -atus (arcuatus, lunatus).

- Bearing and origin: -fer (seminifer), -genus (pyogenus, carcinogenus).

Thus, Latin suffixes perform classifying and semantic functions, forming a rich and universal vocabulary of medical terms.

Methodology of Studying Latin Suffixes in Medical Terminology

Effective assimilation of medical vocabulary requires the application of special teaching methods. The study of Latin suffixes should be based on the following approaches:

1. Systematization and Classification

Creating tables and flashcards grouped by suffixes. Color coding allows quick orientation in their functions.

Methodology:

- Creating tables that distribute terms by suffixes and their meanings.
- Using flashcards: front side — Latin term, reverse side — translation and meaning of the suffix.
- Color coding: for example, disease suffixes — red, inflammation suffixes — orange, diminutives — green.

Example of a table by suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples of terms	Translation
-itis	inflammation	gastritis, hepatitis, bronchitis	gastritis, hepatitis, bronchitis
-oma	tumor	carcinoma, sarcoma, melanoma	carcinoma, sarcoma, melanoma
-algia	pain	neuralgia, myalgia	neuralgia, myalgia
-osis	pathological condition	tuberculosis, nephrosis, sclerosis	tuberculosis, nephrosis, sclerosis
-ectomy	surgical removal	appendectomy, tonsillectomy	appendectomy, tonsillectomy

Example of flashcards Flashcard 1 (color: orange)

Front side: Hepatitis

Reverse side: hepar (liver) + -itis (inflammation) → inflammation of the liver

Flashcard 2 (color: red)

Front side: Carcinoma

Reverse side: karkinos (cancer) + -oma (tumor) → malignant tumor

Flashcard 3 (color: green)

Front side: Neuralgia

Reverse side: neuron (nerve) + -algia (pain) → nerve pain

2. Comparative Analysis

Comparison of Latin terms with their Russian and English translations. Using schemes “root + suffix → meaning.”

Examples:

1. hepatitis → *hepar (liver) + -itis (inflammation) → inflammation of the liver*
2. neuralgia → *neuron (nerve) + -algia (pain) → pain in nerves*
3. carcinoma → *carcinos (cancer) + -oma (tumor) → malignant tumor*

4. appendectomy → *appendix* + *-ectomy* (removal) → *surgical removal of appendix*
5. sclerosis → *skleros* (hard) + *-osis* (condition) → *pathological hardening of tissues*

3. Contextual Learning

Analysis of clinical cases and anatomical descriptions with highlighting suffixes.

Example 1:

Diagnostica: fractura humeri in regione mediali.

Translation: Fracture of the humerus in the middle region.

- *fractura* = *frangere* (to break) + *-ura* (result of action) → fracture
- *humerus* – humeral bone

Example 2:

Appendectomia per laparotomiam facta est.

Translation: Appendectomy performed through laparotomy.

- *appendectomia* = *appendix* + *-ectomy* (removal) → removal of appendix
- *laparotomia* = *lapara* (abdomen) + *-tomia* (incision) → surgical incision of the abdominal wall

Conclusion

Latin suffixes are the most important element of medical terminology. They provide the possibility of precise expression of concepts, create new meanings, and classify terms according to semantic features. For the successful assimilation of medical vocabulary by medical students, it is necessary to use a methodology based on classification, comparison, contextual learning, and digital technologies. The use of the CLIL approach and regular repetition allows not only to memorize terms but also to apply them in professional practice. Thus, the classification of Latin suffixes and the methodology of their study complement each other and together form a solid foundation for mastering medical terminology.

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