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MILITARY TERMINOLOGY: LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES

Military terminology replenishes the vocabulary of the state language gradually, and thus reflects the lingua-cultural situation characteristic of a certain era. The main characteristics of military terminology are competence and corporatism. Military terminology is replenished not only in times of war and conflict but also in times of military reform and transformation. The secrecy and closeness of the army make it corporate and create prerequisites for the creation and development of their military language.

Like other variants of business style, words in military documents are mainly used in their subject-logic meanings. The exception is the names of the objects of military action, which are often assigned different symbols. The general properties of military terms are those that are not specific to any particular language but are characteristic of any terminology. A very important common feature for any terminology, including military terminology, is its systemic conditionality, that is, a certain dependence of terms on each other. A distinctive feature of military terms is their stylistic neutrality, since the only purpose of the term is the name of the relevant concept or object of reality, as opposed, for example, to jargon words, which are always characterized by a certain emotional-expressive colour.

Military terminology differs from neutral vocabulary functionally (specialization in military affairs) and semantically (clarity of semantic boundaries, stylistic neutrality, lack of emotional colouring, as well as the desire for certainty). Unlike a conventional word, a military term can only be associated with one object of reality, represented by either one concept, one dentate, or any number of identical objects. This unequivocal correlation is evident only in one area of military affairs. The ambiguity of a military term can only occur when it is used in different areas of military business or different contexts: dispatch, notification, report, unit of staff; subsection, part, subsection, group, purpose, and object.

In military terms, there are usually no synonyms, or they differ in their use. Systemic conditionality of military terms is a certain dependence of terms on each other (expression of generic and specific concepts, known hierarchy). This property of military terms is traced in military ranks. As there are large numbers of people with different levels of knowledge and training in the military sphere, military terms must meet another requirement – to be clear, simple, and understandable. This is why many military terms have been created based on a common vocabulary.

New military terms are formed using the usual methods of word formation characteristic of modern English. A clear understanding of the methods of word formation allows a deeper understanding of the development of military terminology and the meaning of new terms, not yet reflected in dictionaries.

Morphological word formation covers the following methods: affixing, collocation, conversion and abbreviation. Affixing is a method of word formation by which new terms are created by attaching word-forming affixes (prefixes and suffixes) to the foundations of different parts of speech. Among the most productive suffixes by which military terms (nouns) are formed are the following:

- -er: launcher, booster;
- -ese: manualese, navalese;
- -al: removal, survival;
- -ry: weaponry, missilery;
- -age: camouflage, sabotage;
- - ment: bombardment, environment.

Word complication – a method of word formation, in which a new word is formed by joining the bases of two or three words (aircraft, battlefield, man-of-war, battlewise, seaworthy, downgrade).

Conversion is a very common type of word formation in military vocabulary, in which some existing words, without changing their original form, acquire the meaning of another part of speech (mortar – to mortar; shell – to shell; rocket – to rocket).

Consequently, all military materials are distinguished by the saturation of special military vocabulary, the wide use of military and scientific and technical terminology, the presence of a certain number of stable phrases, characteristic only for the military sphere of communication, an abundance of military nomenclature and special abbreviations, symbols used only in military materials, in terms of syntax – wide use of elliptic and cliched constructions, compressed form of presentation. All this is due to certain features of the military sphere of communication: brevity, clarity and concreteness of language, accuracy and clarity of presentation, ensuring the logical sequence of presentation, clear separation of one opinion from another, ease of perception of transmitted information.

^{1.} Bowyer R. Campaign. Dictionary of Military Terms. Macmillan, Bloomsbury, 2004. 280 p.

^{2.} Dickson P. War Slang. American Fighting Words and Phrases from the Civil War to the Gulf War. N.Y., 1994. 403 p.

^{3.} Algeo J. Fifty Years Among The New Words. A Dictionary of Neologisms. Cambridge University Press, 1991. 257 p.