



THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN IN MEDICINE

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Abstract

The article analyzes the role of the Latin language in medicine at the present time. Latin is the primary language of the Catholic religion and is used in medicine to formulate anatomical, clinical and pharmaceutical terms. The role of the Latin language in the formation of Western European languages and in the enrichment of the Latin language with borrowed words, popular and professional expressions is enormous.

Keywords: Latin language, professional expressions, borrowings, medical terminology, sayings.

INTRODUCTION

The Latin language continues to be an important cultural phenomenon of the modern world. Without this seemingly “dead language” it is impossible to imagine many areas of human activity. In this regard, it is appropriate to recall the statement of the author of the textbook “The Latin Language and Introduction to Ancient Culture” A.V. Podosinov: “If Latin is “dead,” then its “death” was beautiful - it “died” a thousand years and fertilized most European languages, becoming the basis for some (Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Romanian, Moldavian and some others) and endowing other languages with hundreds, thousands of words and terms... and the Russian language did not escape this influence.” If you look carefully, it turns out that the scope of Latin is very wide and has significant diversity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Latin is used as the official language of the modern Catholic Church. The Vatican's documentation is kept in Latin, and the messages of the popes are compiled. According to the Western theological tradition, scientists still write dissertations and even conduct debates in Latin. Knowledge of Latin is indispensable for a priest of the Catholic Church. In our country, after Peter I, the Latin language (and with it ancient Greek) until the October Revolution of 1917 occupied, and in most foreign European countries it still occupies, one of the most honorable places in the program of humanitarian “classical” gymnasiums. Knowledge of the Latin language has always





been and is considered the basis of European education, since the peoples of Europe have been creating their culture in this language for more than two millennia. Knowing Latin, a person receives the key to huge layers of culture of antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance [5].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Latin in medicine is traditionally used in anatomical, clinical and pharmaceutical terminology. Knowledge of Latin allows doctors from different countries of the world to easily understand each other. The long tradition of using the Latin language in medicine serves as a unifying factor for doctors around the world and for the unification of medical education. Until recently, most medical works were written in Latin [2]. The great Russian surgeon N.I. Pirogov wrote in Latin, and I.P. Pavlov wrote an expressive message to young people “Ad juventutem epistola” [3]. And even today, similar scientific works continue to be published. For the last three years, the magazine “Novus Hermes” has been published at the Department of Classical Philology of Moscow State University, which publishes articles by famous classical philologists from all over the world.

In many fields of science, primarily botany and zoology, terminology is based on Latin or Latinized Greek words. Each animal or plant has a corresponding “standard” scientific name, which allows scientists from different countries to clearly and unambiguously designate certain phenomena of living nature that have completely different names in different languages of the world.

Scientific terminology, therefore, belongs to the field of international vocabulary, largely built on the basis of the Latin language and its forms. This vocabulary should be equally understandable to educated people all over the world. Of course, most medical or scientific terminology is of a special nature and is therefore known to few. But in international vocabulary there is the most general layer, which consists of the most common words, mainly of social or political significance, which should be known and understandable to everyone. This includes words borrowed from Latin (or formed using its forms) such as humanism, republic, dictatorship, forum, university, international, association, applicant, assistant, associate professor, internship, student, scholarship, seminar, professor, lecture, laboratory assistant, etc. [1,3,5,6]. It is clear that one of the most important tasks of international vocabulary is to promote the progress of knowledge, on the one hand, and better mutual understanding of people, on the other. This determines its undoubted advantages. The disadvantage of international vocabulary is the lack of “living” linguistic flavor, sketchiness and abstractness.





The Latin language uses laconic and aphoristic formulations that reflect or summarize experience in various fields of activity. The very concept of “winged words” is attributed to Homer, and as a term of literary criticism it has been used since the 2nd half of the 19th century. The Latin language is very rich in such expressions due to its long and rich history.

Catchphrases arise in different ways and relate to different areas of human experience. The main subject areas or areas of classification are: aphorisms of worldly wisdom (proverbs, sayings, etc.), expressions from the field of scientific knowledge (medicine, law, etc.), from literary works, as well as statements of famous historical figures, which owe their appearance to a specific situation. All these types of catchphrases are fully present in the history of the Latin language.

Since expressions summarizing the everyday experience of the Romans have come to us, as a rule, as part of literary works, it is not in all cases possible to clearly separate folk art itself from the later literary form that a particular Latin writer gave it.

This area includes, for example, such statements as *Quod licet Jovi, non licet bovi* (“what is allowed to Jupiter is not allowed to the bull”), *Finis coronat opus* (“the end is the crown of the matter”), *De gustibus non est disputandum* (“there is no dispute about tastes”), *Festina lente* (“hurry, take your time”), *Mens sana in corpore sano* (“a healthy mind in a healthy body” (Juvenal), *Fortes fortuna adjuvat* (“fate helps the brave - says” (Cicero), *Manus manum lavat* (“a hand washes a hand”), etc. Many expressions were borrowed by the Romans from the Greeks.

The political experience of the Romans was especially intense, so many popular expressions arose in this area of activity (in many cases also not without the influence of the Greeks). Such, for example, is the expression attributed to the ancient Greek poet Hesiod: *Vox populi - vox dei* (“The voice of the people is the voice of God”) or: *Si vis pacem, para bellum* (“If you want peace, prepare for war!”).

Many expressions were born in the field of medicine. These include, for example, the famous expression attributed to the Greek physician Hippocrates: *Ars longa, vita brevis est* (“Life is short, art is eternal”), *Noli nocere* (“Do no harm”), *Medicus curat (morbos), natura sanat* (“The doctor treats (diseases), nature heals”).

The following expressions belong to the field of jurisprudence: *Audiatur et altera pars* (“Let the other side be heard”), *Testis unus testis nullus* (“One witness is not a witness”).

Many famous expressions came into use in Latin literature from situations associated with various historical figures. For example, the expression *Alea jacta est* (“The die is cast”) was uttered by Caesar while crossing the border river Rubicon, and the expression *Veni, vidi, vici* (“I came, I saw, I conquered”) is a laconic message from





Caesar to the Senate after the victory over King Pharnaces. The famous orator Cato the Elder, according to legend, ended each of his speeches in the Senate with the words: *Ceterum censeo Carthaginem delendam esse* (“And besides, I believe that Carthage must be destroyed”).

CONCLUSION

From all that has been said, it is clear that studying the Latin language and maintaining a high level of knowledge in this area is a very pressing task of modern education.

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