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## UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH OIL AND GAS TERMINOLOGICAL SYSTEMS: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AND TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

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**Abstract.** The article examines the peculiarities of Ukrainian oil and gas terminology and the challenges associated with its translation into English within professional communication. The aim of the study is to determine the structural, semantic, and functional features of Ukrainian petroleum terms and to identify effective translation strategies that ensure terminological equivalence, accuracy, and communicative adequacy in English-language discourse. The research is based on methods of terminological analysis, comparative linguistic analysis, and descriptive translation studies, which made it possible to systematize key lexical units of the oil and gas industry and analyze their functioning in both Ukrainian and English. Special attention is paid to the role of Petroleum Technical English as a global medium of professional interaction, characterized by a high degree of standardization, extensive use of abbreviations, and context-dependent terminology. The study demonstrates that Ukrainian oil and gas terminology is formed under the influence of both national linguistic traditions and international (primarily English-language) standards, which leads to cases of terminological asymmetry and the emergence of lexical lacunae. It is established that many specialized concepts lack direct English equivalents and therefore require the application of descriptive translation, explicitation, or paraphrasing strategies to ensure accurate interpretation. The analysis also confirms that the effective translation of petroleum terminology depends on contextual factors, professional knowledge, and adherence to international standards of technical communication. The results of the study contribute to a deeper understanding of the interaction between language and professional knowledge in the oil and gas sector and can be applied in translation practice, terminology standardization, and the development of specialized lexicographic resources.

**Keywords:** descriptive translation; lexical lacunae; Petroleum Technical English; terminological asymmetry; translation of oil and gas terminology.

### Introduction

The rapid development of the oil and gas industry, along with the expansion of international scientific and technical cooperation, has intensified interest in the study of domain-specific terminology. Oil and gas terminology evolves under the influence of continuous scientific and technological progress, the emergence of new

hydrocarbon extraction and processing technologies, and active international communication within the professional community. In this context, English serves as the dominant language of global professional communication in petroleum engineering, which makes the accurate translation of specialized terms from national languages into English essential for effective

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international scientific and professional interaction.

At the international level, the study of specialized terminology is carried out within the frameworks of terminology studies, languages for specific purposes (LSP), and translation studies. Scholars devote considerable attention to issues of terminology standardization, the formation and structuring of terminological systems, as well as the adequacy of translation in professional communication. Researches have addressed the systematic nature of technical terminology, the functioning of English-language vocabulary in the oil and gas sector, and challenges associated with translating specialized terms in technical documentation and scientific discourse [1].

In Ukrainian linguistic science, more and more attention is paid to the development of scientific and technical terminology, in particular in the energy and oil and gas industries. Researchers emphasize the role of international lexical components in the formation of the Ukrainian terminological system, the processes of borrowing English terms, as well as the issues of their adaptation and standardization in professional communication. However, much less attention is paid to the problem of translating Ukrainian oil and gas terminology into English, despite the growing need to present Ukrainian scientific and technical achievements in the international scientific and professional environment.

#### **Analysis of Recent Foreign and Domestic Research and Publications**

The study of specialized terminology, including oil and gas terminology, has attracted considerable attention in both international and Ukrainian linguistic research. Scholars emphasize that the development of industry-specific terminology is closely connected with scientific and technological progress and the expansion of professional communication at the international level. As a result, technical terminology requires systematic description, standardization, and accurate translation in professional discourse.

One of the earliest efforts to systematize petroleum vocabulary was made by Lalia Phipps Boone in *The Petroleum Dictionary*, which includes about 6,000 oilfield terms and expressions. It became one of the first specialized lexicographic works in the field and significantly contributed to the standardization of petroleum terminology [2]. The theoretical foundations for the study of technical terminology were developed within the framework of general terminology studies. A significant contribution was made by

Eugen Wüster, who is regarded as "the father of technological standardization" and formulated the basic principles of modern terminology theory and emphasized the importance of a systematic approach to the description and standardization of technical terms. Eugen Wüster's "Introduction to the General Theory of Terminology and Terminological Lexicography" was a foundational text establishing the theoretical basis for the later terminology work [3]. These ideas were further developed in the works of Helmut Felber, who focused on the issues of terminology management and the organization of terminological systems in scientific and technical fields. Important insights into the functioning of specialized vocabulary were also provided by researchers of English for Specific Purposes. In particular, Tony Dudley-Evans and Maggie Jo St. John analyzed the role of professional terminology in technical communication and emphasized the importance of domain-specific vocabulary in international professional discourse [4].

Modern research also addresses the challenges associated with translating petroleum terminology. For example, in research on translation of Petroleum Technical English (PTE) it is investigated the translation of petroleum technical terms and pointed out the difficulties related to the rendering of complex multi-component terms and highly specialized concepts in professional texts. The translation of oil and gas terminology is characterized by a high degree of specialization, requiring accuracy, clarity, and contextual awareness. PTE combines general language with highly domain-specific vocabulary, including technical terms, acronyms, and common words with specialized meanings. Effective translation therefore goes beyond literal equivalence and involves adapting linguistic structures, interpreting culturally bound or metaphorical expressions, and preserving the communicative intent of the original text. Drawing on the principles of eco-translatology, this process can be understood as a multidimensional adaptation – linguistic, cultural, and communicative – where the translator selects the most appropriate strategies to ensure both technical precision and functional adequacy in the target language [5].

In Ukrainian linguistic scholarship, increasing attention is devoted to the development of scientific and technical terminology. Ukrainian researchers working with oil & gas terminology often conducted their studies in two fields:

- petroleum geology and engineering, and
- translation of technical terminology.

Among petroleum scientists who have influenced the development of terminology, it is important to highlight Hryhorii N. Dolenko, a Ukrainian petroleum geologist and academician, who made significant contributions to oil and gas geology and authored fundamental works on petroleum formation. Ukrainian petroleum geologist Georgi Boyko published many works on oil formation and petroleum geology. Although they were mainly geologists, their work strongly shaped petroleum terminology. These scientists contributed to scientific terminology in petroleum geology, which later became standardized in technical dictionaries and translation. Researchers such as Oksana Selivanova, Iryna Kochan, and Liliia Symonenko analyze the formation of Ukrainian terminological systems, the role of international lexical components, and the processes of borrowing and adaptation of foreign terms in scientific discourse [6]. Researchers S. I. Manhura & A. V. Sereda study translation of English oil-and-gas terms into Ukrainian and problems caused by technological development [7]. Their studies emphasize that the expansion of international scientific communication leads to the growing influence of English on the development of Ukrainian technical terminology.

### **Highlighting Previously Unresolved Aspects of the General Problem**

Despite the substantial body of research devoted to the development of technical terminology and the translation of English-language scientific discourse, comparatively limited attention has been paid to the translation of Ukrainian oil and gas terminology into English within professional contexts. In particular, the structural, semantic, and functional features of Ukrainian petroleum terms, as well as the challenges associated with their accurate, consistent, and context-sensitive rendering in English, remain underexplored. This gap is especially critical in the context of increasing international scientific and technical cooperation. Accordingly, there is a clear need for further research aimed at a systematic analysis of these terminological units and the identification of effective translation strategies that ensure terminological equivalence, communicative adequacy, and standardization in global professional discourse.

### **Purpose and objectives of the study**

The purpose of this article is to analyze the main features of the formation of Ukrainian oil and gas terminology, to characterize its structural

and semantic properties, and to identify key challenges associated with its translation into English in professional texts. To achieve this aim, the study seeks to compare Ukrainian and English terminological systems in the oil and gas industry, to develop effective translation strategies for rendering specialized terms, and to apply terminological and translation analysis to ensure accuracy, consistency, and communicative adequacy in professional discourse.

### **Presentation of the main research material**

The research focuses on the analysis of the structural, semantic, and functional characteristics of Ukrainian oil and gas terminology, as well as the identification of adequate English equivalents in professional discourse. Oil and gas terminology represents a highly specialized subsystem of language for specific purposes, characterized by precision, standardization, and strong dependence on professional context. The formation of Ukrainian petroleum terminology reflects both national linguistic traditions and the influence of international (primarily English-language) technical standards, which often leads to terminological asymmetry and translation challenges.

In this regard, particular attention is given to Petroleum Technical English (PTE), which is a specialized branch of scientific English essential for global cooperation in the petroleum industry, and Technical English (TE) in the oil & gas industry. It serves as a linguistic bridge for technological exchange and innovation, especially in international contexts. From a linguistic perspective, PTE demonstrates distinct stylistic features. Its lexical layer is characterized by extensive use of technical terminology, including field-specific, interdisciplinary, and context-dependent units. A prominent feature is the frequent use of *acronyms and abbreviations*, which contribute to precision and efficiency in professional communication. Specialized dictionaries, glossaries, and supplementary terminological resources provide definitions of such units; for example, dictionaries of new oil and gas terms and abbreviations contain more than 2,500 English acronyms and shortened forms. However, there is often no direct equivalence between such terms in Ukrainian and English within this field [8].

The use of such abbreviations presented in Table 1 reflects the highly standardized and internationally oriented nature of petroleum discourse, enabling concise and unambiguous communication among professionals across

**Table 1 - Comparative Representation of PTE Abbreviations and their Ukrainian Equivalents**

English abbreviation	Meaning	Ukrainian equivalent
BOP	blowout preventer	блок противикидного обладнання
BHA	bottom hole assembly	компонування бурового інструменту
WOB	weight on bit	навантаження на долото
WOC	waiting on cement	час очікування застигання цементу
EOR	enhanced oil recovery	підвищення нафтовіддачі
WAG	water alternating gas injection	почергове закачування води і газу
ROV	remotely operated vehicle	апарат з дистанційним керуванням
API	American Petroleum Institute	Американський нафтовий інститут
Bbl	barrel	барель
ESD	emergency shut down	система аварійного відключення
psi	pounds per square inch	фунт на квадратний дюйм
LNG	liquefied natural gas	зріджений природний газ
NGL	natural gas liquids	рідкі фракції природного газу
LWD	logging while drilling	каротаж у процесі буріння

different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. In addition, many common words acquire specialized meanings within petroleum contexts. Syntactically, PTE is marked by a high degree of nominalization, which contributes to conciseness and objectivity. The frequent use of passive constructions emphasizes processes rather than agents, while the presence of long and complex sentences allows for the precise expression of technical ideas [5]. Within this framework, a *three-dimensional translation approach* is proposed, encompassing linguistic, cultural, and communicative dimensions. From the linguistic perspective, the translator must adapt grammar, structure, and style to the norms of the target language, avoiding literal translation and ensuring clarity and naturalness. From the cultural perspective, attention must be paid to the accurate rendering of culturally bound and metaphorical elements, taking into account differences between source and target cultures. From the communicative perspective, the primary goal is to preserve the intended meaning and function of the original text, ensuring effective communication with the target audience. Accordingly, effective translation of petroleum technical texts requires the integration of technical knowledge, linguistic competence, and cultural awareness. Rather than relying on word-for-word translation, translators must apply flexible strategies to achieve a balance between linguistic accuracy, cultural relevance, and communicative effectiveness.

The professional language of the oil and gas industry in English and Ukrainian is characterized by a highly specialized terminology system that reflects drilling operations, equipment, and production processes. The vocabulary includes

standardized technical terms, many of which have direct Ukrainian equivalents or are translated descriptively. For example, *acidizing* – *кислотна обробка пласта і привибійної зони*, *hydraulic fracturing* – *гідророзрив пласта*, *wellbore* – *стовбур свердловини*, and *wellhead* – *гирло свердловини*. Operational terms such as *to kill a well* – *заглушити свердловину (з використанням бурового розчину, води, цементу для зупинки тиску)*, *to junk a well* – *закупорити свердловину і залишити (ліквідувати) її внаслідок неможливості вилучення з неї дрібних предметів* and *to case a well* – *кріпити свердловину обсадними трубами* illustrate procedural aspects of petroleum engineering. Equipment-related vocabulary includes *bailer* – *желонка (відерце-черпак з донним клапаном)*, *slips* – *клини (клиновидні захоплення з зубами для утримання труб у свердловині під час спуско-підйомних операцій)*, and *roller-cutter* – *шарошка* [9]. In addition, some terms reflect conceptual or functional descriptions, such as *enhanced oil recovery techniques* – *методи збільшення нафтовіддачі* and *smart well* – *свердловина з автоматизованим або дистанційним керуванням*. The terminology demonstrates a combination of precise technical naming and descriptive translation strategies, ensuring accurate bilingual professional communication in the oil and gas industry.

In the Ukrainian terminology of the oil and gas industry, a number of terms are of foreign origin and therefore require further interpretation. Examples include:

well logging – каротаж (фр. Carottage) – геофізичне дослідження свердловин;

core – керн (нім. Kern) – зразки породи у вигляді циліндричних стовпчиків, витягнуті з свердловини в процесі буріння;

cuttings – шлам (нім. Schlamm) – частинки вибуреної породи;

traveling block – талевий блок (від гол. talie) – вантажопідйомний механізм, підвішений до нерухомої конструкції;

fluids – текучі флюїди (від лат. fluidus) – пластові рідини і газу.

Particular attention should be paid to the terms, which illustrate the importance of context-sensitive translation [10]. For example, the analysis of translations of the term “верстат-качалка” into English shows that its English equivalent varies depending on the degree of technical specificity. The term “pumpjack” is the most widely used and recognized equivalent in general and semi-technical contexts, including industry communication and media discourse. In contrast, “beam pumping unit” is preferred in engineering and academic texts due to its higher degree of terminological precision, as it explicitly reflects the mechanical function of the equipment [9]. A more generalized term, “oil well pumping unit”, may be used in broader technical descriptions where exact specification is not required. This variation confirms that terminological equivalence is not absolute but context-dependent, requiring the translator’s informed choice.

Furthermore, during the study it has been identified a range of Ukrainian petroleum terms that are frequently mistranslated due to literal rendering or insufficient domain knowledge. For instance, “свердловина” should be translated as *well* in petroleum engineering contexts, whereas *borehole* is more appropriate in geological descriptions. Similarly, “бурова установка” corresponds to *drilling rig*, denoting a complex system of equipment, while “бурова вежа” is accurately rendered as *derrick*, a term firmly established in professional usage. The term “буровий розчин” requires specialized equivalents such as *drilling mud* or *drilling fluid*, reflecting its functional role in drilling operations. In petroleum geology, “пласт” should be translated as *reservoir* or *formation*, rather than the general term *layer*, which lacks sufficient specificity. These examples demonstrate that terminological accuracy depends on both semantic precision and disciplinary context [11;12].

In addition, it should be highlighted the importance of standardization in production-related terminology. The Ukrainian term “видобуток нафти” is conventionally translated

as *oil production*, while *oil extraction* is less typical in industry usage. The term “родовище” corresponds to *oil field* or *gas field*, whereas the literal equivalent *deposit* is generally avoided in petroleum engineering discourse. Similarly, “гирло свердловини” is correctly translated as *wellhead*, and “обсадна колона” as *casing string* or *well casing*, both of which are standardized terms in international practice. The use of incorrect or non-standard equivalents may lead to misinterpretation and reduced communicative efficiency in professional settings.

Special attention has also been given to culturally and terminologically specific units, such as “фонтанна арматура,” which is translated as *Christmas tree*, referring to a valve assembly installed at the wellhead to control hydrocarbon flow. Another example is “приплив нафти,” rendered as *oil inflow* or *production inflow*, emphasizing the dynamic process of fluid movement from the reservoir into the wellbore. Such cases illustrate the necessity of combining linguistic competence with technical expertise and awareness of industry conventions.

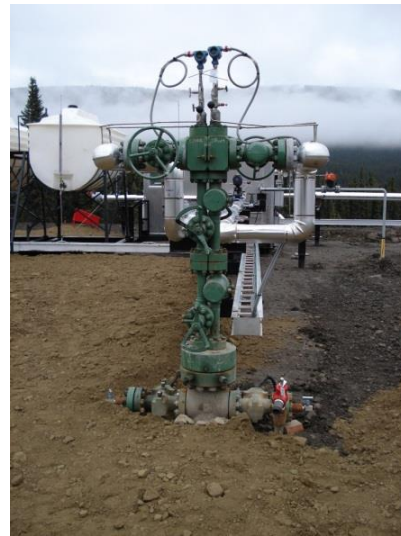


Figure 1 – Christmas tree

The greatest degree of ambiguity arises in the interpretation of non-established terms or neologisms. Their emergence is closely linked to the development of new technologies. In many cases, the concept embedded in such terms encodes entire technological or conceptual frameworks. For instance, with the introduction of new drilling technologies, the following terms have entered Ukrainian: *whipstock* – віпсток, *coiled tubing* – койлд-т'юбінг, *smart offshore platform* – інтелектуальна морська платформа, *numerical simulation method* – метод числового моделювання, *nanosensor* – нанодатчик,

*nanorobot* – наноробот, *remotely controlled semi-autonomous rigs* – напівавтонномні бурові установки з дистанційним керуванням, *huff and puff* – пароциклічна обробка свердловини, *template* – темплата (опорна донна плита), *digitized well* – цифрова свердловина, *remotely operated vehicles (ROVs)* – дистанційно керовані засоби пересування, *carbon nanotechnology research* – дослідження у сфері вуглеводневих нанотехнологій, and *smart sensor* – розумний датчик, among others [9].

In the Ukrainian terminology of the oil and gas industry, certain concepts do not always have direct equivalents in English, resulting in *terminological lacunae*. In contemporary translation studies, such phenomena are interpreted as instances of lexical and conceptual asymmetry between languages, where meaning is rendered through descriptive translation, explication, or paraphrase [13;14;15]. It should also be emphasized that the absence of direct equivalents in technical translation necessitates the use of descriptive or explanatory strategies to preserve the accuracy of specialized communication [16;17]. Within Petroleum Technical English, such terms often require extended definitions to ensure accurate professional understanding. For example:

*flow assurance* – комплекс заходів, спрямованих на забезпечення безперервного руху флюїдів у свердловинах і трубопроводах, що включає гідродинамічні розрахунки, запобігання утворенню газорідних пробок, боротьбу з відкладеннями та корозією, а також інші інженерні рішення;

*local content* – поняття, що використовується в управлінні нафтогазовими проектами і передбачає врахування місцевих умов та ресурсів під час розробки родовищ або будівництва інфраструктури, включаючи природно-кліматичні, соціально-політичні, правові та економічні чинники, які впливають на реалізацію проекту;

*brownfield project* – проєкт, що реалізується на вже освоєному родовищі або існуючому промисловому майданчику з використанням наявної інфраструктури та з урахуванням попередньої експлуатації;

*well integrity* – комплекс технічних і організаційних заходів, спрямованих на забезпечення герметичності свердловини протягом усього життєвого циклу, запобігання витокам флюїдів та аварійним ситуаціям;

*asset integrity management* – система управління технічним станом обладнання та інфраструктури, спрямована на забезпечення

їхньої безпечної, надійної та ефективної експлуатації;

*drilling window* – діапазон допустимих параметрів буріння (зокрема тиску та густини бурового розчину), у межах якого забезпечується стабільність стінок свердловини та запобігається ускладненням;

*kick tolerance* – максимально допустимий об'єм пластового флюїду, що може потрапити у свердловину без втрати контролю над нею;

*well intervention* – комплекс операцій, що виконуються у вже пробуреній свердловині з метою її обслуговування, ремонту, стимуляції або відновлення продуктивності;

*production optimization* – сукупність інженерних і технологічних заходів, спрямованих на підвищення ефективності видобутку вуглеводнів шляхом оптимізації режимів роботи свердловин і обладнання;

*subsea tieback* – підключення підводних свердловин до існуючої інфраструктури (платформи або берегових об'єктів) за допомогою системи підводних трубопроводів;

*decommissioning* – комплекс робіт із виведення з експлуатації нафтогазових об'єктів, включаючи ліквідацію свердловин, демонтаж обладнання та відновлення довкілля [8].

These examples demonstrate that terminological lacunae are not merely linguistic gaps but reflect differences in conceptual frameworks and professional practices across languages and cultures.

## Conclusions

The study has shown that Ukrainian oil and gas terminology is formed through a combination of internal linguistic resources and external influences, primarily via borrowing from English, which reflects the international nature of the industry. Its structural organization is characterized by a prevalence of compound and multi-component terms, where the defining element encodes key semantic features such as function, process, material, or operational characteristics.

The semantic properties of the terminology demonstrate a high degree of specialization, precision, and context dependence, as well as a tendency toward conceptual compression, particularly in complex term formations and neologisms. At the same time, this analysis-based research work confirms the presence of terminological lacunae, which require descriptive translation strategies and explication in Ukrainian – English translation practices. The

translation of oil and gas terminology into English is largely governed by established equivalents, standardization within the professional discourse, and the use of specialized dictionaries and glossaries. Where direct equivalence is absent, translators rely on descriptive rendering, which ensures conceptual accuracy but may increase the length of the term.

The obtained results corroborate and extend previous studies in terminology and translation theory, demonstrating that technical terminology constitutes a dynamic system shaped by both linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The findings not only confirm earlier observations regarding the role of borrowing, standardization, and descriptive translation in specialized communication, but also provide new insights into their functional interaction within contemporary professional discourse.

The scientific novelty of this study lies in the integrated analysis of structural, semantic, and

translational features of terminology, which enables a more comprehensive understanding of its development and use. Furthermore, the results offer practical implications by contributing to the improvement of translation strategies and enhancing the accuracy and consistency of specialized texts.

Further research may focus on corpus-based analysis of Ukrainian – English oil and gas terminology, as well as on the study of variation in term usage across different professional contexts and genres, including academic, industrial, and regulatory discourse.

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#### Conflict of interest

**None.**

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## УКРАЇНЬСЬКА ТА АНГЛІЙСЬКА НАФТОГАЗОВІ ТЕРМІНОСИСТЕМИ: ПОРІВНЯЛЬНИЙ АНАЛІЗ І ПЕРЕКЛАДАЦЬКІ СТРАТЕГІЇ

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**Анотація.** У статті досліджено особливості української нафтогазової термінології та проблеми її перекладу англійською мовою у професійній комунікації. Метою дослідження є визначення структурних, семантичних і функціональних характеристик українських нафтогазових термінів, а також виявлення ефективних перекладацьких стратегій, що забезпечують термінологічну еквівалентність, точність і комунікативну адекватність в англійськомu дискурсі. Дослідження ґрунтується на методах термінологічного аналізу, порівняльно-лінгвістичного аналізу та дескриптивного перекладознавства, що дало змогу систематизувати ключові лексичні одиниці нафтогазової галузі та проаналізувати їх функціонування в українській та англійській мовах. Особливу увагу приділено ролі Petroleum Technical English як глобального засобу професійної взаємодії, що характеризується високим ступенем стандартизації, широким використанням аббревіатур і контекстуально зумовленою термінологією. Установлено, що українська нафтогазова термінологія формується під впливом як національних мовних традицій, так і міжнародних (передусім англійських) стандартів, що зумовлює випадки термінологічної асиметрії та появу лексичних лакун. Виявлено, що значна кількість спеціалізованих понять не має прямих відповідників в англійській мові, що потребує застосування описового перекладу, експлікації або перефразування для забезпечення точності передачі змісту. Аналіз також підтверджує, що ефективність перекладу нафтогазової термінології залежить від контекстуальних чинників, професійних знань перекладача та дотримання міжнародних стандартів технічної комунікації. Результати дослідження сприяють глибшому розумінню взаємодії мови і професійного знання у нафтогазовій сфері та можуть бути використані у перекладацькій практиці, стандартизації термінології й розробленні спеціалізованих лексикографічних ресурсів.

**Ключові слова:** дескриптивний переклад; лексичні лакуни; переклад нафтогазової термінології; термінологічна асиметрія; технічна англійська мова у нафтогазовій галузі.