

## Abstract

The aim of the course is to fill the need for an answer to the question of what is the essential nature of the fundamentals of medical terminology. The chapters of this course reflect three parts of medical terminology, which are anatomical, clinical and pharmaceutical terms. The English language, as well as most of modern European languages, including the Slavic ones, is descendant of the Latin language. In its turn, Latin is descendant of ancient language commonly called Indo-European. Although these languages are different in structures, some similarities are still available. The characteristic of languages of Indo-European group is that they express the relation of words to each other by changing endings of the words. English words are inflected very little instead. Still, there are more than 75 % of Latin words in English language, especially in between medical terms. This fact is apparent from even a cursory examination of this course and of the dictionary.

In the matter of fact, Latin was the language of ancient Romans. Ancient Romans and Greeks were the creators of the ancient civilization, which became the basis of all the European culture. The Latin alphabet derived from Greek via the Etruscans, the tribe that dwelt Italian territories. It can be observed from its name: Alpha - Beta (the first and second letter in the Greek alphabet). In their turn, the English, German, Polish and other alphabets have been derived from the Latin one. As the Roman state developed, the Roman armies moved throughout the Mediterranean lands, carrying Latin to the outlying regions of the known world. Over time, the colloquial language, influenced by the native tongues and dialects, evolved into a group of new languages called "Romance" languages.

It is well known that medical science was highly developed as far as the ancient times. One of the most famous physician at that time in Greece was Hippocrates (460 - 377); in ancient Rome - Claudius Galenus (2-nd cent.); in Arabia - Avicenna (Ibn Sina, 980-1037). The latter this one has written the work "Principals of medical science" in which he described and classified different topics of medicine.

This course will acquaint students with medical terminology, which includes Latin and Greek words. This is a historical fact that Greek and Latin languages are the source of the medical terminology formation. The medical terminology consists of several groups of words. Among them could be found words of Greek and Latin origin, words artificially created on the basis of Latin and Greek words, words originated from other languages, mostly Arabic, because the ancient Arabic medical school has influenced greatly upon the European medical science.

Some other-languages words are used here as well. Such variety was caused by the historical development of medical science. Consequently, along with the studying of Latin grammar and vocabulary, learning greek equivalents of some Latin medical terms are suggested here. Greek terms are widely used especially in clinical terminology.

In this course, great attention has been paid to word-formation elements of the Latin and Greek origin. These are nouns, adjectives, numerals and other parts of speech, which are the source of the medical terms formation. The learning of the Latin language is of an applied character. The main objective of the course is to master the fundamentals of the terminology. It is essential for the understanding and using of medical terms.

It is worthwhile to know that the First Anatomical nomenclature was adopted on the Congress of Anatomical Society (Basel, 1895) and was called Baseler Nomina Anatomica – BNA. At the same time, with the development of morphology, anatomical terminology was improved and expanded, and by German Anatomical Society, the new register of terms was initiated (Jena, 1935). This register was named Jenaer Nomina Anatomica – JNA and was used in Europe only. In 1950, on the 5<sup>th</sup> International Anatomical Conference was undertaken the decision to check and renew the existing register of Anatomical terms to make them shorter and easier to memorize.

The renewed and optimized register of terms was presented on the 6<sup>th</sup> International Anatomical Conference (Paris, 1955). The new register was named Parisiana Nomina Anatomica (PNA). This version of Anatomical nomenclature was widely used, but on each following International Anatomical Conferences several changes were added (Montreal, 1987; Budapest, 1988; New York, 1989). In 1989 the Federal Committee on Anatomical terminology (FCAT) was established, by which the new International register of Anatomical terms was compiled. After that, in San Paulo (1997) the new, the last one universal register of Anatomical terms was established. Each lesson in this course introduces new forms and vocabulary followed by a variety of exercises on the new material. Some Latin sayings and proverbs to acquaint students with ancient society and philosophy are given as well.