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THE SYNONYMY OF MEDICAL TERMS IN ROMANIAN LANGUAGE: EVOLUTION AND TRENDS

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CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE THESIS

Relevance and Importance of the Research Topic. The study of synonymy in medical terminology represents an issue of major importance in contemporary linguistics. The capacity to provide expressive alternatives in naming a "thing" reflects the creative potential of language. Medical terminology is a system in which conceptual precision is fundamental, as the field of medicine concerns superior existential categories: the human being and health. Therefore, the presence of synonymy in medical discourse generates controversial attitudes. This research addresses this fundamental topic, demonstrating that terminological synonymy tends to be an inevitable functional feature, generated by adaptation to social needs. The topicality of the issue derives from the dynamic interaction between reality and language/terminology. The study relies on the theories of renowned linguists Ferdinand de Saussure and Eugenio Coseriu concerning language as an organized and dynamic system in which stability and innovation coexist in a complex equilibrium, articulated along the syntagmatic–paradigmatic axis.

Overview of previous research on the chosen topic. The topic of this thesis aligns with transdisciplinary concerns (at national and international levels) regarding terminology in the context of transition—from normative approaches (the General Theory of Terminology founded by Eugen Wüster) to communicative and functional approaches (the Communicative Theory of Terminology developed by Maria Teresa Cabré). Theoretically, the work is grounded in the contributions of world-renowned linguists such as Eugenio Coseriu, Jean Dubois, David Crystal (explaining synonymy in relation to language); Romanian linguists such as Iorgu Iordan, Vladimir Robu, Angela Bidu-Vrănceanu, Narcisa Forăscu, Cristian Moroianu, Rodica Zafiu (highlighting synonymic "differences" according to registers); and linguists from the Republic of Moldova, such as Academician Silviu Berejan (the theory of homosemy, fundamental for understanding semantic equivalence), Nicolae Corlăteanu, Marcu Gabinschi, Nicolae Raevschi, Ion Dumeniuc, Vasile Bahnaru, Nicolae Mătcaș, Ion Melniciuc, Vladimir Zagaevschi (authors of specialized studies, manuals, lexicographic works). The study also incorporates research by Irina Condrea, Viorica Molea, Inga Druță, Angela Savin-Zgardan, Eugenia Mincu, among others.

Research problem. The subject of this study is synonymy in Romanian medical terminology. The research explores in detail: why synonymy persists in medical terminology despite terminologists' efforts to impose strict monosemy; how it manifests across various functional-terminological registers (structure, value, impact, etc.); and what role synonymy plays in medicine at the level of specialized knowledge.

Aim and objectives of the thesis. The main aim of the thesis is to carry out a complex study (methodological-applied implications, epistemological perspectives, logical-cognitive factors) that explains the presence of synonymy in the Romanian medical terminological system.

Objectives of the thesis. To achieve the proposed aim, the study focuses on the following aspects:

1. Identifying linguistic and extralinguistic factors that favour the establishment of synonymic relations in Romanian medical terminology.
2. Highlighting synonymy within the general architecture of language by exploring its nature, evolution, and various linguistic definitions; analysing the relationship between language, specialised language, and medical terminology; relating the General Theory of Terminology (Eugen Wüster) and the Communicative Theory of Terminology (Maria Teresa Cabré) to terminological synonymy.
3. Defining medical terminological synonymy through the lens of "differences" within the terminological macrosystem; investigating the causes and specific manifestations of the phenomenon by identifying sources and terminological layers across registers; conducting a logical-cognitive analysis of hypo-/hyperonymic hierarchies in building synonymic series.
4. Conducting a complex analysis of synonymic series in medical terminology based on synonymic macrosystems, exploring the phenomenon from logical-cognitive, morphological, functional-pragmatic, and hierarchical perspectives, related to functional-semantic fields, paradigms, symmetry/asymmetry, and conceptual interconnections.
5. Clarifying the stylistic and aesthetic values of medical synonymic terms by illustrating their expressiveness.
6. Identifying and explaining the dual status of synonymic series in medical terminology (limitations and benefits), including in interface terminology.
7. Assessing medical students' perceptions and experiences regarding medical synonymy, with the aim of grounding pedagogical strategies for the conscious and optimal acquisition of medical terminology and the efficient use of synonymic series in (non)specialized communication.
8. Developing an inventory of frequently used synonymic series in medical terminology to explore and quantify the structure, typology, and dynamics of synonymy in three essential subfields: anatomical terminology, clinical terminology, and pharmaceutical terminology.

Research hypotheses. The following hypotheses are proposed:

1. Synonymy is an inherent and functional feature of medical terminology, having a dual status (benefits and limitations).
2. The functional-semantic manifestations of synonymy in medical terminology are distinct from those specific to general language and require a specialized analytical framework.

3. A pragmatic-contextual approach is essential for the effective management and use of synonymy in medicine.
4. The perceptions of future medical specialists (students) regarding synonymic terms reflect their usefulness in both educational and medical contexts.

Summary of the research methodology and justification of the implemented methods. The study employs complex methodologies: theoretical analysis and comparative, multidisciplinary review; linguistic analysis (etymological, morphological, semantic, stylistic, pragmatic); the taxonomic method—classifying synonym types based on "differences" (denomination, structure, degree of equivalence); conceptual modelling; and empirical investigation, which included corpus analysis and a questionnaire on *Synonyms in Medical Terminology*. The chosen methodology is justified by the complex nature of synonymy, which requires a multidimensional investigative approach.

Scientific novelty. This study develops a definition of terminological synonymy as a relation between specialized lexical units characterized by semantic identity or similarity, but also by "differences" resulting from their placement within a macrostructure (functional-semantic field, group, paradigm); taxonomic "differences" (semantic equivalence, structural-morphological, functional); conceptual "differences" (hypo-/hyperonymy).
The research proposes the development of synonymic series through "differentiation": a) macrosystemic modelling of the synonymic series; b) semic modelling of the synonymic network (dominant/peripheral synonym; symmetry/asymmetry—major, moderate, null); c) logical-conceptual modelling of the synonymic series (hypo-/hyperonymy). Additionally, the thesis proposes an integrated analytical framework for synonymy in Romanian medical terminology, articulating general linguistic theory with practical applications. This provides a holistic perspective that surpasses fragmentary analyses. An important contribution is the empirical validation of the pragmatic dimension of synonymy through a questionnaire administered to medical students. The work includes a detailed classification of the sources of synonymy (denomination, definition, translation, register, morphology, etymology, brand names, regionalisms, semantic phenomena) and an analysis of symmetry/asymmetry in synonymic series, demonstrating the contextual and directional nature of substitutability. An innovative aspect is the exploration of the aesthetic dimension of medical terms (beauty, ugliness, the comic, the tragic). The thesis also formulates proposals for interface terminology by combining precoordinated and postcoordinated structures in medical information systems. These contributions reflect a paradigm shift from a prescriptive to a functional and contextualized approach, supported by empirical data.

Theoretical importance and applied value of the research. The work proposes a model that transcends simplified approaches to synonymy (absolute identity) by highlighting the relational nature of the semantic phenomenon. The study establishes an original methodological framework for analysing synonymy, articulating structuralist, cognitive, and terminological theories (Saussure, Coseriu, Wüster, Cabré); redefines the synonymic series as a differential network organized through semantic fields, paradigms, and hypo-/hyperonymic relations; provides a systematic inventory of medical synonymic series, useful for linguistic, terminological, and derivational studies; and highlights the typology and etiology of medical synonymy (etymology, morphology, functionality, translation studies). The results can be integrated into university curricula and serve as a basis for methodological guidelines and educational resources aimed at reducing terminological ambiguity and developing specialized communication skills. The empirical feedback (via questionnaire) confirms the relevance of a functional-semantic approach to synonymy in didactic contexts.

Validation of results. The research findings have been disseminated through 14 articles published in specialized journals and conference proceedings at national and international levels, as well as through 21 presentations at scientific events during the period 2019–2025. These contributions demonstrate the relevance of the topic within ongoing scientific dialogue. Furthermore, the empirical study (a questionnaire distributed to students of the "Nicolae Testemițanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy) highlights the importance and inevitability of synonymy in medical communication, emphasizing its practical utility and the applicability of the results obtained.

Keywords: medical terminology, synonymy/synonym, terminological synonymic series, synonymic "differences," logical-cognitive perspective, conceptual perspective, synonymic etiology, synonymic macrosystem, prototype, seme, functional-semantic field, semantic hierarchy.

CONTENT OF THE THESIS

The Introduction offers a synthesis of the thesis, highlighting the topicality and relevance of the theme, the purpose and objectives, as well as the research methodology, which is constructed by combining analytical and quantitative methods. In broad lines, it presents the elements of scientific novelty and originality, the major issue addressed, the theoretical and applicative value of the approach, the structure of the chapters, and the possibilities for applying the results in practice.

Chapter 1. The Phenomenon of Synonymy in the Architectonics of Language, Situated Between Tradition and Innovation provides the theoretical grounding for the analysis of synonymy, starting from the view of language as a complex, dynamic, and structured system, organized along the syntagmatic–paradigmatic axis. Language, in its entirety, is a well-organized system, rigorously structured into microsystems and microstructures (levels of language). Each microsystem entails a correlation of subordinate units, forming so-called models. The system of language presupposes complexity, integrity, stability, and mobility. Therefore, the static and the dynamic, stability and mobility, tradition and innovation reveal the binary character of language [12, pp. 58–59]. The philosophical foundation of Saussurean theory is *holism***,** the view that the whole cannot be reduced to the sum of its parts [15, p. 87]. Although Ferdinand de Saussure introduces the distinction between synchrony and diachrony, he emphasizes synchrony, considering historical evolution (diachrony) less relevant for the analysis of the linguistic system. In this regard, the distinguished scholar Eugeniu Coșeriu states: "Saussurean synchrony […] is fully legitimate and necessary and represents Saussure's true positive contribution to the field of linguistics; in contrast, his diachrony is entirely illegitimate […] Pure diachrony makes no sense: it must be transformed into a history of the language" [7, p. 245]. Therefore, unlike Ferdinand de Saussure, who emphasizes system and movement, Eugeniu Coșeriu highlights *the system in movement***.** Coșeriu's theory approaches the relationship between language and speech from several perspectives: the functional dimension (with its correlates—the unitary correlate of the signified and the methodological correlate of commutation); the dimension of opposition; the systemic dimension (systemic structuring); and the dimension of neutralization [7, pp. 118–134]. Eugeniu Coșeriu stresses that the functions of language, manifested in speech, determine one another by virtue of the relations established on the two fundamental axes of linguistic organization: the *syntagmatic axis* – the axis of combination and ordering corresponding to the succession of signs in the chain of speech; and the *paradigmatic axis* – the axis of selection, corresponding to the classes of functional and material units of a language, from which the appropriate intensity is

chosen for what one intends to express. Functional units are attributed two types of existence: on the one hand, the "existence" of unique models, and on the other hand, the "existence" of the realization of these models (in speech) [7, p. 17].

Language and Specialized Language: Functional Differences and Convergences. An essential aspect to note is that specialized languages stand in a relationship of inclusion with respect to the general language and in a relationship of intersection with the common language, with which they share certain features. Between them, a dynamic relationship is established, involving constant exchange of linguistic units and usage conventions [27, p. 67]. At the level of functionality, the common language contains words indispensable to everyday communication, generic designations, whereas the specialized language contains words deriving from a more exact knowledge of the "things" present within a domain and of their designations. In terms of cognitive effort, common language requires a moderate cognitive load, whereas specialized language implies additional effort for understanding terminology and the associated concepts.

The lexeme *concept* is attested beginning in 1404 with the meaning "the conception of things seen, known, and supported by true reasoning," in philosophy; later, it is taken over into linguistics. The term *notion*, attested in French from 1570 with the meaning "knowledge," is a borrowing from Latin *notio, onis, f.* In terminology, the use of the term *concept* is recommended (as opposed to *notion*), thereby disregarding the synonymic relation *concept = notion.* A *term* is "a word or a set of words that has, in a given language, a precise meaning and expresses a defined idea" [30]. The totality of terms forms *terminology*, which, as the science of terms, represents an activity oriented toward understanding specialized "things" from both linguistic and extralinguistic perspectives, and focuses on concepts rather than on terms [29, p. 54]. Thus, terminology reflects a coherent conceptual modelling and can be regarded as "an intellectual language" [13, p. 22].

The Term Synonymy (Synonym): Etymology and History. In Romanian, the word *synonymy* (*synonym*) is a borrowing from French: "the character or property that links two synonymous terms or expressions; a relation between two or more signifiers, in which these signifiers may be interchanged without the meaning undergoing a simultaneous modification" [28, p. 465]. The French term *synonymie*, in turn, is derived from Late Latin *synonymia*, with Greek roots *synōnymía* (< Gr. *syn* "together" + Gr. *ōnyma* "name" + the abstract feminine suffix *-ía*). The term follows a pathway typical of European terminology: Greek *synōnymía* → Latin *synonymia* → French *synonymie* → Romanian *sinonimie*, and it became established in the specialized lexicon of linguistics and rhetoric beginning in the 17th–18th centuries. In French linguistics, the term *quasi-synonymy* is also used, attested from 1798; however, earlier attestations exist: 1582 – "characteristics of synonymous terms"; 1671 – "figure of rhetoric" [30]. In English, the term

synonymy is a borrowing from French and has been used since 1650 with the meaning "use of synonyms," and, beginning in 1794, with the meaning "the quality of being synonymous." The relationship of *pseudosynonymy* is also mentioned – "words that approach one another in meaning but are not perfectly equivalent or completely interchangeable" [18] – and the term *homœosemants***,** "with the same meaning," is recommended [22].

Retrospectively, the evolution of the concept *synonymy* includes: Antiquity – Aristotle defines synonymy through the identity of name and notion, assigning it a logical function [4, p. 150]; Middle Ages – the phenomenon of synonymy is treated in glossaries; Modern period – it acquires an autonomous status in modern languages, French and English ([17, pp. 11–13]); 19th century – synonymy is analyzed from historical-psychological perspectives; 20th century **–** synonymy is redefined within a relationship dependent on lexical fields, semantic oppositions, and context; Contemporary linguistics – cognitive-pragmatic approaches are implemented in developing the concept of synonymy.

Definitions of Synonymy (Synonym): Common and Specialized Dimensions. In **French linguistics**, the structuralist tradition assigns synonymy a fundamentally differential and historical character: proximity of meaning [31]; the "law of distribution," according to which synonymous words tend to differentiate functionally [25, p. 29]; the diversity of the sign in relation to a unique meaning, which cannot be perfect [20, p. 56]; and the distinction *synonym* vs *equivalent* [24, p. 707].

In **English linguistics**, synonymy is approached in a deeply pragmatic manner: **denotative** similarity**,** contextual substitution, and interchangeability of terms**.** In **Romanian linguistics,** definitions evolve from early approaches (referential and rhetorical meanings [14, p. 365]) to modern formulations [8]: differential units at the level of expression and convergent at the level of the denotatum; contextual identity and semic similarity [5, p. 292]; the concept of *homosemy* (Silviu Berejan) – semantic identity at the level of the sememe and the structural analysis of semantic fields [3, p. 5]. In **the Republic of Moldova**, field theory is developed as a tool for assessing degrees of semantic proximity [11, p. 160].

Types and Perspectives of Synonymy Classification. Definitions converge toward the idea of a relation of *relative equivalence* between lexical units, manifested variably depending on "differences," functional registers, communicative context, and the semantic evolution of words.

1. Types of synonyms from the perspective of degree of equivalence. This refers to the tendency of lexical units to have the same meaning and to be substitutable; the establishment of a relation of partial or contextual semantic equivalence [20, pp. 60–65].

2. Types of synonyms from the perspective of expressivity. Synonymy fulfills a wide range of essential expressive functions in communication: a. synonyms reflecting degrees of intensity: *pain=torment=agony*; b. synonyms implying evaluative nuances: *obese=overweight* [ibidem]; *tumor=neoplasm=carcinoma*, etc. [ibidem]; c. stylistic registers: *eczema=urticaria*; d. regional synonyms: *illness=infirmity=malady=ailment*, etc. [ibidem];e. synonyms accompanied by affective or perceptual associations: *pertussis=whooping cough*, etc. [ibidem].

3. Types of synonyms from a relational perspective. Synonymy is considered essential in the relational organization of terminological lexicon: functional-semantic group, functional-semantic field, functional-semantic paradigm, group of synonyms, antonyms, etc. The *functional-semantic group* designates sets of lexemes with shared semantic features—synonyms, antonyms, lexical and semantic fields [1, pp. 96–99]. This group is integrated into the semantic field, being regarded as a complex lexical paradigm. At the same time, synonymic, antonymic, terminological, and stylistic groups are included within these structures, yet the non-uniform use of terminology complicates the delimitation of lexical microsystems [ibid.]. The description of lexico-grammatical fields remains a controversial topic, particularly regarding the existence of a predetermined hierarchy of terms. It is assumed that these fields include one or several *archilexemes* or fundamental terms. We distinguish the following types of synonyms from a relational standpoint: a) **types of synonyms according to semantic relations within the functional-semantic field:** total synonyms (*doctor=medic*); partial synonyms (*boală=afecțiune=patologie* 'disease');constant synonyms (*tabletă=pilulă=cașetă* 'tablet/pill'); contextual synonyms (*tumoare=neoplasm*); b) **types of synonyms in relation to lexical structures** (functional-semantic fields, groups, paradigms): synonyms within functional-semantic groups (formed on the basis of semantic and extralinguistic relations); c) **types of synonyms according to paradigmatic and oppositional relations:** synonyms with *privative opposition* (one synonym possesses an additional semantic feature compared to another: *stomac= ventricul gastric* – the latter adds the feature "precise/anatomical localization"); synonyms with *equipollent opposition* (synonyms differ by several semantic traits while preserving a common semantic base: *a alerga=a fugi=a tropăi* 'to run', representing degrees 2 or 3 of equipollence);
– synonyms with *disjunctive opposition* (rare) (they share no common semantic features but belong to the same usual paradigm: *a tuși=a expectora=a se sufoca* 'to cough, to expectorate, to suffocate') [9]; d) **functional types of synonyms:** stylistic synonyms (*gestație=sarcină=graviditate=gravidie =maternitate=purtare=poziție*) [ibid.]; **terminological synonyms** (specialized language) (*hipotermie=scădere a temperaturii corporale* 'hypothermia =

decrease in body temperature') [ibid.]; **affective/expressive synonyms** (*cancer=maladie grea=boală necruțătoare*) [ibid.].

4. Types of synonyms from a taxonomic perspective: A) **Semantic synonyms**, which include: a) units with the same semantic component and the same sphere of use; b) units with the same semantic component but partially different contextual spheres of use; c) ideographic synonyms; d) partial synonyms, with significant differences in meaning, domain, contexts of use, etc.; B) **Synonyms differentiated expressively, functional-stylistically, socially, temporally, dialectally**, etc.; C) **Multiaspectual types of synonyms**, based on a combination of criteria.

5. Types of synonyms from a functional perspective (basic vocabulary vs. specialized vocabulary). At the level of basic vocabulary, synonymy represents an indicator of the richness and flexibility of a language, whereas in the terminological system, synonymy is generally avoided, since the fundamental objective of terminology is precision and univocity.

Synonymy within the terminological system is a linguistic phenomenon with profound implications for the organization of knowledge and specialized communication. It is situated between the natural dynamic of language and the precision requirements imposed by specialized fields. In this context, scholars' opinions are controversial: some researchers accept the phrase *terminological synonymy*, while others reject it, considering the synonym a *terminological doublet* [34, p. 8]. Currently, the phrases *terminological doublet* and *terminological synonymy* have become equivalent: "synonymy presupposes the presence of the doublet" [ibid., p. 11]. Therefore, terminological synonymy tends to be a characteristic of the interdisciplinary terminological system, a marker of terminological evolution.

Furthermore, it has been proposed to interpret the phenomenon of synonymy on the basis of two theoretical frameworks: ***The General Theory of Terminology*** **(Wüster)** – synonymy is viewed as an obstacle in the standardization process; the Wüsterian ideal of a univocal concept–term correspondence presupposes the reduction of synonymy, although the author acknowledges that its total elimination is impossible in terminology; ***The Communicative Theory of Terminology*** **(Cabré)** – synonymy is a discursive strategy, adjusted to communicative objectives, target audience, and domain of use; terminological synonymy is defined as a relation between specialized lexical units that share semantic identity or proximity, but also functional-semantic differences that can be integrated into a complex terminological macrostructure.

Chapter 2. Synonymy and Medical Terminology offers an in-depth analysis of the ways in which synonymy manifests within medical terminology, starting from the definition of medical language and the highlighting of its stratification into various registers. Medical language represents a system of specialized communication, largely influenced by Greek and Latin, and

structured into three lexical levels: (1) **the medical lexicon with a high degree of specialization**, intended for international communication: *acne vulgaris=acnee*, *epistaxis=hemoragie nazală*, *rubeola=erupție*, *anemia perniciosa=anemie severă*, *tonsillitis=tonsilită*, *diarrhoea=diaree* [9]; (2) **the medical lexicon with a lower degree of specialization**, intended for doctor–patient communication or for popularization: *coșuri*, *sângerare nazală*, *slăbiciune*, *"scaune moi"*; (3) **the non-specialized lexicon, integrated into everyday vocabulary**: *curgere de sânge din nas*, *lipsă de sânge*. Synonymy in medical terminology manifests at **the intradisciplinary level** (*atac vascular cerebral=AVC*), **interdisciplinary level** (*hiperglicemie = glicemie crescută*), and **transdisciplinary level** (*insuficiență renală=disfuncție la rinichi*), underscoring the functional dimension of the phenomenon versus domain-specific variability and medical didactics [9]. From a morphological perspective, the analysis of specialized texts [16] indicates the predominance of synonymy at the level of nouns, followed by verbs and adjectives. In order to identify the synonymic series present in medical texts, the scientific article *Coma hepatică virală B și/sau D, la gravidele cu eclampsie nonconvulsivă*, written by physician S. Țibuleac [ibidem], was examined. Out of an estimated total of 3,000 words, the distribution of parts of speech is as follows: nouns ≈ 1,100 (45.8%), verbs ≈ 480 (20%), adjectives ≈ 300 (12.5%), and other categories (adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions) ≈ 520 (21.7%).

The analysis of synonymic series in medical terminology was related to the additional (specialized) cognitive effort necessary for understanding medical "things." The variety of ways in which medical "things" are (de)named facilitates the emergence of semantic phenomena, including synonymy. Consequently, medical terminology constitutes a field of specialized knowledge in which lexical units are either autonomous (medical terms) or non-autonomous. It is generally considered that synonymy is characteristic of the early stages in the formation of a terminology (the coexistence of several terms, the selection and acceptance of a term) [33, p. 21]. The acceptance of a term from within a synonymic network is the essential condition for its functional implementation. For example, the online platform *sin0nime.com* is a Romanian synonym dictionary that is continuously updated and contains an impressive volume of content: over 72,000 unique synonyms. The platform *Dictoo.eu* offers a visual and conceptual structuring of synonymy in the form of a word tree—a graphic and hierarchical representation of relationships among words, rooted in a key term (the dominant synonymic series) and displaying, on its branches, the connections: close synonyms, peripheral synonyms, derived or associated terms. It also provides a semantic visualization function, offering users a lexical map. The dictionary organizes terms into lexical fields (groups of words sharing the same semantic core but differing in semantic nuance,

register, or use), e.g., *"a inciza"* ('to incise'): *a cresta, a debrida, a face o incizie, a scarifica, a secționa, a tăia*, etc.

In approaching the phenomenon of establishing synonymic series in medical terminology, several perspectives are proposed: the **historical perspective** – the Greco-Latin core of medical terminology: a) **inherited terms** (*mână* < Lat. *manus* = upper limb, *us, f*; *nas* < Lat. *nasus, i, m*; *limbă* < Lat. *lingua, ae, f*; *gură* < Lat. *gula, ae, f* = oral cavity, etc.); b) **loanwords** (*pulmon* < Lat. *pulmon, onis, m* = lung; *hepar* < Gr. *hepar* = liver; < Eng. *nursing* = medical care, etc.).

The **etymological perspective** concerns the explanation of the origin and evolution of terms; the **semantic perspective** concerns the frequent changes in meaning; the **structural–morphological perspective** concerns the creation of new terms (derivation, compounding, conversion); synonymic series composed of two or more components; synonymic series consisting of simple, complex, and brachygraphic medical terms.

I. Simple terms (formed from a single word) in establishing synonymic relations: 1. affixation – the most common morphological procedure in the creation of medical terms (derivation through suffixation, derivation through prefixation, mixed derivation); **2. simple terms formed through the juxtaposition of learned roots** (*gastrectomie = gastr(o)-* < Gr. *gaster* "stomach" + *-ectomie* < Gr. *ektomē* "excision"); **3. grammatical conversion** (*colonul sigmoid → sigmoidul*; *intestinul ileon → ileonul*; *mușchiul oblic extern → oblicul extern*, etc.).

II. Complex/syntagmatic terms (formed from two or more words) in establishing synonymic relations: a) **conventionalized terms** – part of standard medical nomenclature, with international and didactic usage: *fundul stomacului=fornix gastric*; *boală valvulară=valvulopatie*; *ligamentul încrucișat anterior=LIA=ligamentum cruciatum anterius*; *canal rahidian=canal vertebral*, etc.; b) **free syntagmatic terms** – flexible structures, adapted to didactic–descriptive objectives:*vasele sangvine ale peretelui stomacal=rețeaua vasculară gastrică*; *ramurile nervilor cranieni=ramificația nervilor cranieni*; *creșterea temperaturii corporale=hipertermie*, etc.

III. Brachygraphic terms in establishing synonymic relations: truncations (*temp.= temperatură*; *hemo=hemogramă*; *eco=ecografie*, etc.); **acronyms** (pronounceable – *SIDA = Sindromul imunodeficienței umane dobândite*); **initialisms** (pronounced letter-by-letter – *ECG = electrocardiogramă*); **symbols and international units** (*Hb=hemoglobină*); **standard alphanumeric codes** (*I10, ATC A10BA02 = metformin* according to the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System – ATC).

Etiology of synonymic series in the medical terminological system. In this research, terminological synonymy is analysed as **a relation established between specialized lexical units, characterized by semantic identity or similarity, as well as by "differences" generated by**

their reference to a particular functional–semantic field, groups, and paradigms, and by taxonomic perspectives (differences in levels of semantic, structural–morphological, functional–semantic, and conceptual equivalence – hyper-/hyponymy, etc.). In medical terminology, the following circumstances are identified as conducive to the emergence of "differences" in establishing a synonymic relation**: a)** ***synonymic differences at the level of denomination vs definition*****; b)** ***differences between learned term vs definition;*** **c)** ***synonymic differences at the level of translation*****; d)** ***synonymic differences between denominations of the same concept vs different linguistic registers*****; e)** ***synonymic differences between the extended form vs truncated form of the same term*****; f)** ***synonymic differences between initialism/acronym vs full (syntagmatic) form*****; g)** ***synonymic differences between portmanteau terms vs syntagmatic terms*****; h)** ***synonymic differences between literary form and regional or dialectal form*****; i)** ***synonymic differences between specialized symbols/formulas and syntagmatic terms*****; j)** ***synonymic differences at the level of distinct terminologies: medical terminology vs chemical terminology*****.**

Taking the taxonomic perspective as reference, we can identify additional sources/factors contributing to the emergence of terminological synonymy in the medical field: the **functional–stylistic differentiation** of the language (*boală=afecțiune=maladie=patologie*, depending on the colloquial, administrative, or scientific register); **archaization of vocabulary** (*dambla=hemipareză / accident vascular cerebral*); **semantic phenomena**, such as polysemy/homonymy of the medical term; **paronymy** (*morbus* vs *morb*; *traumă* vs *traumatism*; *depresie* vs *depresiune*); differences between **trademark-specific terms and common-language equivalents** (*Aspirină / Asproflash / Aspartan; Paradol / Tylenol / Acetaminophen*).

Other perspectives for examining the sources of renewal within the synonymic inventory of medical terminology include: the **nominal perspective** – different terms designating the same concept (*eritrocit=hematie*); the **systemic–substitutive perspective** – terms functioning as substitutes within lexical paradigms (*hiperglicemie*="increased glucose level"); the **communicative-pragmatic perspective** – selection of the synonym depending on the context of the utterance and the interlocutor's level of specialization (*a deceda=a muri*); **conceptual relations** – hyperonym–hyponym, holonym-meronym, including hierarchical and non-hierarchical relations essential for defining types of synonyms and for extralinguistic or linguistic equivalence.

Synonymic series: noun, verb, adjective. Lexical analysis of a medical text [16] reveals a structure specific to scientific medical discourse. As previously noted, out of approximately 3000 words, around 1100 are nouns (45.8%), 480 are verbs (20%), 300 are adjectives (12.5%), and the remaining approximately 520 words (21.7%) belong to other categories. The large number of nouns

reflects the terminological character of the text; verbs are mostly auxiliary or impersonal (e.g., *se manifestă*, *se constată*, *este indicat*), while qualitative adjectives frequently occur in classification and in indicating degrees of severity (e.g., *congenital*, *nehemolitic*, *favorabil*). In the article, **18 synonymic series** were identified: 10 for nouns, 4 for verbs, and 4 for adjectives. For example, noun-based series include: *icter=colorație galbenă*, *icter scleral*, *icter nuclear*; *boală=patologie*, *entitate*, *tulburare*; *diagnostic=identificare*, *diferențiere*, *explorare*; *bilirubină=pigment*, *substanță*.

Verb-based series include: *a apărea=a surveni*, *a se instala*, *a se manifesta*; *a (se) trata=a (se) administra*, *a interveni*; *a (se) diferenția=a (se) delimita*, *a (se) distinge*.

Adjective-based equivalents include: *ereditar=familial*, *congenital*; *firesc=fiziologic*; *sever=grav*.

The synonymic series are organized by medical domain: **clinical terminology**: *afecțiune=boală*, *sindrom*, *entitate*, *cadru nosologic*; *icter=hiperbilirubinemie*, *colorație gălbuie*, *icter nuclear*, *icter patologic*; *ereditate=congenital*, *moștenit*, *familial*, *genetic*; *tratament=terapie*, *intervenție*, *plasmofereză*, *fototerapie*, *transplant hepatic*; **diagnostic terminology**: *semne=simptome*, *manifestări clinice*, *modificări*, *tulburări*; *diagnosticare=identificare*, *explorare*, *examinare*, *confirmare*, *diferențiere*; **anatomical terminology**: *bilirubină=pigment*, *compus*, *produs de degradare*, *derivat hemic*. These findings highlight the specificity of medical terminology (the predominance of nouns and the use of synonymic series for fundamental concepts such as *icter*, *diagnostic*, *tratament*, *bilirubină*). Therefore, the noun constitutes the **core of medical terminology** and frequently appears in synonymic series. The detailed analysis of key terms reveals formal, derivational, etymological, and functional differences.

Analysis Model. The Noun *boală* (disease/illness). The synonymic series *boală=maladie=afecțiune=morbiditate=patologie=suferință=tulburare=betegie=beteșug=betejeală* designates pathological states, differing according to origin, register, and degree of specialization. *Boală* (< Sl. *bolĭ*) is a general term with wide usage; *maladie* (< Fr. *maladie* < Lat. *male habitus*) carries a cultured value and denotes precise nosological entities; *afecțiune* (< Lat. *affectio*) is a neutral and often euphemistic term; *morbiditate* (< Lat. *morbidus* + *-itate*) belongs exclusively to statistical-medical terminology; *patologie* (< Gr. *pathos* + < Gr. *logos*) refers both to the medical discipline and to the totality of morbid processes; *suferință* (< Lat. *sufferentia, ae, f.*) expresses the subjective dimension of illness. The terms *tulburare* (< Fr. *trouble* < Lat. *turbo, are*), *betegie* and *beteșug* (< Hung. *betegség*), *betejeală* (from *a beteji* + suffix *-eală*), and *gogeală* (from *a gogi* + suffix *-eală*) belong to popular, regional, or specialized-peripheral registers, denoting a varied degree of dysfunctions, from functional disorders to persistent states of weakness. The synonymic

relationships among these terms reflect the complex stratification of the Romanian medical lexicon and the coexistence of scholarly and popular, traditional and/or modern elements.

Verbal synonymic series are more limited but essential for conveying medical actions.

Analysis Model. The Verb *a opera* (to operate). The synonymic series *a opera=a inciza=a (se) tăia* gathers verbs that denote surgical actions but differ in origin and degree of specialization. *A opera* means "to perform a surgical intervention" and is the most frequent medical term; it comes from Latin *opero, operari* (< Lat. *opus, operis* "work"), entering Romanian directly or via French *opérer* or Italian *operare*. Although specialized, it is also used in other domains—informatics, economics—with the general sense "to carry out a complex action." *A inciza* denotes "to make an incision," functioning as a hyponym of *a opera*; it is borrowed from French *inciser* < Lat. *incido, incidere* (< Lat. *in-* + < Lat. *caedo, are* "to cut"), with the etymological sense "to cut into" matching exactly the medical usage. *A (se) tăia* is a popular, non-specialized verb inherited from Latin *talio, taliare* (< Lat. *talea, ae, f.* "cut branch"), frequently used in common language and perceived as colloquial in medical contexts. This synonymic series highlights the hierarchy of specialization: *a opera* – specialized medical term, invasive surgical procedure; *a inciza* – verb with increased precision, exclusively surgical term; *a (se) tăia* – designation of the act of cutting.

Verbal synonymic series in medical terminology reflect differences in origin, degree of specialization, and register, showing how medical discourse combines scientific precision with the need to remain comprehensible and expressive depending on the context of use.

Adjectives are frequently used for classification and for marking the degree of severity (at the level of nouns–medical terms).

Analysis Model. The Adjective *cutanat* (cutaneous). The synonymic series *cutanat=dermic =tegumentar* designates aspects related to the skin, but with differing degrees of specialization and generality. *Cutanat* (Fr. *cutané* < Lat. *cutaneus, a, um* < Lat. *cutis, is, f.* "skin") is the standard medical term, used to denote skin-related conditions and procedures. *Dermic* (< Fr. *dermique* < Lat. *derma, atis, n.* < Gr. *derma* "skin," from Greek *dérein* "to flay") refers to the deep layer of the skin and is used particularly in histology and pathophysiology. *Tegumentar* (< Fr. *tégumentaire* < Lat. *tegumentum, i, n.* "covering," from *tego, ere* "to cover") has a generalizing value, denoting the entirety of bodily coverings.Together, these adjectives illustrate how medical terminology combines different etymological roots and varying levels of specialization to denote structures and phenomena associated with the skin. These adjectives facilitate differentiation of types of conditions and pathological states, fulfilling descriptive, classificatory, and evaluative functions without altering the fundamental meaning of the noun-term they modify.The analysis of synonymic series in the medical article highlights a lexical structure specific to scientific language:

the predominance of nouns, the moderate frequency of specialized verbs, and the use of adjectives for grading and classifying pathological states.

Chapter 3. Analytical Perspectives on the Phenomenon of Synonymy in the Medical Terminology System. This chapter develops an integrative approach to the phenomenon of synonymy in medical terminology, examining it from multiple perspectives: cognitive, semantic, morphological, pragmatic, and aesthetic. Recent linguistic research addresses synonymic paradigms in relation to *the prototype* – a representative categorical model, a mental image through which an individual perceives and recognizes reality. From a semantic standpoint, *the prototype* is defined as a set of prototypical features**,** organized into: a**)** core characteristics**,** frequent and stable; b) peripheral characteristics, rarely activated. The dominant contains core prototypical features, and the distance between the dominant and another lexeme-synonym within a synonymic series becomes a key factor in either enhancing or limiting the verbalization process, by refining the mental category [23, pp. 251–270].

The characteristics of synonymic paradigms are primarily generated by a specific structural correlative organization, based on integrative and differential semantic features. In the semantics of synonyms, we find: a) core semes of the functional-semantic group; b) integrative semes specific to the synonymic series; c) differential semes at the level of the individual *term-synonym.*

Establishing pragmatic relations is subjective and focuses on selection and substitution capacities. It is considered that "in searching for the appropriate word, a person refers in their memory to a structural paradigm of the lexical system" [19, p. 180], a system based on semantic associations, where lower-level paradigms are included within higher-level paradigms [35, pp. 41–58].

The morphological-categorial perspective highlights the role of parts of speech in organizing and delimiting functional-semantic paradigms. Nouns, adjectives, and verbs form lexical groups capable of developing intra- and interlexical connections, reflecting the processes of polysemy and contextual synonymic relations. For example, the terms *medicament* and *medicație* belong to the same derivational family, but semantic differences determine their contextual usage. The degree of generalization of core semes within functional-semantic groups is lower compared to the dominant of the synonymic series, indicating the level of abstraction and semantic complexity. Core semes are associated with a specific part of speech, possess a high degree of abstraction, and represent a relatively distinct interpretation of the general meaning shared by the entire synonymic series.

a. Opposition, Differences, and Transition. Distinctions determine the position of a synonymic series and become evident when a comparative analysis is made of synonymic series

across different parts of speech, including related ones (within a word family). The categorial seme **"state"** is found in its general sense in the synonymic series: *a suferi=a boli=a zăcea (bolnav)=a sta la pat=a gogi= a piroti=a lâncezi=a tânji* – "to endure physical pain" [8].

b. Adjacent Synonymic Series (Zones of Semantic Transition). Natural semantic transitions are observed between adjacent synonymic series that converge toward a common conceptual sphere concerning the idea of aging. The terms *senil*, (fam.) *ramolit*, (lit.) *decrepit*, (rare) *senilizat*, (colloq.) *matofit*, (fam.) *hodorogit*, *rablagit*, *zaharisit*, and (loanword) *sclerozat* refer to states associated with old age and functional decline. The same conceptual continuity is found in the series *bătrân, trecut, vârstnic*, (colloq./regional) *vechi*, (fig.) *cărunt*, as well as in the group *vârstnic, bătrân, vechi, major*. The terms *vechi, trecut, antic, arhaic, bătrânesc*, (lit.) *vetust*, *bătrân, folosit, purtat, uzat, uscat, învechit, arhicunoscut* extend the semantic idea of "advanced in time," maintaining connection to the same conceptual area. Overall, these series highlight the continuity and semantic permeability between stylistic registers and levels of generalization.

The hierarchical perspective shows the organization of synonymic series and the relationships among them within functional-semantic groups. Gradually established paradigms, along with their integrative and differential components, allow classification and semantic subordination, highlighting structural interferences and their role in expressive diversification, conceptual precision, and the stylistic adaptability of the language.

Synonymic Interconnection of Synonymic Series in Medical Terminology. Semantic modeling of a synonymic series (hereafter – SS) and of its component synonyms is carried out using various procedures. Macrostructural modeling of an SS allows the representation of the full set of meanings expressed within the synonymic networks involved in a micro-semantic group, taking into account the status of the series – whether basic or adjacent. Simultaneously, this structure demonstrates the capacity of synonyms to activate different interpretative variants in the denominative equivalence of objects, processes, phenomena, etc., including in domains of emotional activity. Particular importance is attached to the individual modeling of the semantics of a *basic synonymic series* within the totality of adjacent SS. The dominant synonyms of the series function as *generic terms* at the level of synonymic series, derived and interrelated within an ideographic group, including both basic and adjacent synonymic series. To represent the *typical semantics* of a synonymic series, two elements are especially relevant: *the semantic idea (semantic core)* – representing the generalized formulation of semantics at the SS level, concentrating essential knowledge about the object; *the prototype* – the mechanisms of categorizing reality, through which various mental representations are grouped into categories or clusters understood as ensembles of equivalent objects.

Macrostructural-Model Analysis of the Synonymic Series of the Medical Term *abdomen.*

The noun-term *abdomen* represents a branched synonymic nucleus, reflecting the diversity of its functional-semantic dimension across three major ideographic groups: **1. anatomical-functional group:** *abdomen, cavitate abdominală, regiune abdominală, segment abdominal, zonă subdiafragmatică* – these designations have a descriptive and topographic function, specific to standardized medical language. Synonymy is partial and dependent on the medical context (radiology, surgery, semiology). *Cavitate abdominală* is a functional hyponym, used to emphasize the anatomical interior, unlike *abdomen*, which also includes the muscular wall and external appearance; the terms can be used interchangeably in specialized statements if the conceptual register is maintained; **2. medical topographic group:** *hipogastru, epigastru, mezogastru, flancuri abdominale, fose iliace, regiuni lombare* – these do not constitute strict synonyms but represent a topographic segmentation of the abdomen, used in diagnosis and surgery. *Abdomen* functions as a hypernym encompassing all these subdivisions; **3**. **popular-expressive group:** *burtă, pântece, mațe, chișor* (regional), *toartă* (popular) – these terms focus on the sensory-external perception of the abdomen in everyday or folkloric language. Synonymy is stylistic, with affective, euphemistic, or depreciative nuances. *Burtă* is the most frequent, often used in informal or metaphorical contexts (e.g., "i-a crescut burta" – "his/her belly has grown"). Synonymy is contextual: *burtă* may substitute for *abdomen* only in colloquial language, while *mațe* denotes the visceral contents rather than the external anatomy, indicating a false synonymy. In figurative usage, *burtă* appears in expressions reflecting perceptions of the body, comfort, or appetite, such as: *a-și umple burta* – "to eat a lot"; *a avea burta mare* – "to be lazy or materially satisfied"; *burtă de bere* – a metaphor for excessive fat accumulation, often with an ironic nuance. In contrast, *mațe* is frequently used in expressions with expressive or comic value, such as: *a se zvârcoli pe mațe* – "to struggle or fidget in vain"; *a avea mațe de oțel* – "to indicate internal strength or robustness." Thus, the terms in this group reflect both the external and affective perception of the abdomen and stylistic-semantic distinctions between everyday, folkloric, and metaphorical language. Consequently, the term *abdomen* is conceptualized along multiple **axes**: **perceptive:** *abdomen* – visible and tactile area → *burtă*; **functional:** *abdomen* – internal space with vital functions → *cavitate abdominală*; **topographic:** *abdomen* – segment used in diagnosis → *hipogastru,* etc.; **symbolic:** *abdomen* – seat of life and fertility → *pântece*. Therefore, the macrostructural analysis shows that the term *abdomen* cannot be treated in isolation but only within a complex network of related terms.

Inventory of Synonymic Series in the Medical Terminology System. The inventory of synonymic series in the medical terminology system, developed within the research, contains 100 medical terms**,** selected from *the Dictoo platform, Dicționar de sinonime* [9], and distributed across

multiple synonymic series. The terms were grouped according to three reference subdomains: **anatomical terminology** (40 series, 396 terms), **clinical terminology** (40 series, 438 terms), and **pharmaceutical terminology** (20 series, 178 terms). Each synonymic series includes a dominant term**,** associated synonyms, and explanatory notes regarding register of use, semantic nuances, and etymological origin, allowing both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the phenomenon of synonymy in Romanian medical terminology. The applied methodology includes structural, linguistic, and statistical-pragmatic criteria**.** Linguistic criteria involve analysis of origin (Latin, Greek, loanword, native creation), morphological structure**,** and register marking (clinical, popular, regional, professional jargon, archaic). Statistical and pragmatic criteria focus on the distribution and dynamics of terms, as deduced from the inventory and explanatory notes. This approach goes beyond mere enumeration of synonyms, providing insight into the internal logic of medical terminology.

Quantitative analysis shows that lexical density varies across subdomains: anatomy (9.9 synonyms per series), clinical (10.95 per series), and pharmacy (8.9 per series). The synonymic series with the largest number of components include *craniu* and *membru* (anatomy), *cancer* and *epidemie* (clinical), and *medicament* (pharmacy); partial and contextual synonymy predominates, while absolute synonymy is extremely rare (e.g., *patelă* vs. *rotulă*). In anatomical terminology**,** terms derive predominantly from Latin and Greek, but a significant number of native, popular, or regional terms (e.g., *buric*, *țurloi*) reflect a culturally specific perception of the human body. In clinical terminology**,** Greek-derived terms dominate pathological nomenclature. Their coexistence with popular synonyms (e.g., *cărbune = antrax*, *gălbinare = hepatită*) generates confusion between terminological precision and the subjective perception of disease. In the pharmaceutical domain**,** synonymy serves a functional-terminological standardization purpose, with learned loanwords predominating (e.g., *analgezic*, *vaccin*) alongside functional or chemical synonyms (*vitamina B1 = tiamină*), while the influence of popular lexicon is minimal.

Symmetry/Asymmetry Dimension and Synonymic Series in Medical Terminology. The interconnection of synonyms is influenced by the degree of internal asymmetry within a synonymic series, and the substitution process is directional (peripheral), thus asymmetric. This semantic orientation is expressed through the role of the center (or nucleus) assigned to the dominant synonym and the positioning of other synonyms in the peripheral area of the synonymic network. Experimental research, based on completing specialized texts, has shown that synonymic networks can be classified according to the *level of asymmetry*: *major asymmetry* – one central dominant term and peripheral hyponyms; *medium asymmetry* – two dominant terms to which others are subordinated; and *null asymmetry* – symmetric series in which all lexemes are interchangeable [32,

p. 125]. The analysis of synonymic series in medical terminology (e.g., *asphyxia/drowning/suffocation* or *boală/maladie*) shows how dominant terms regulate substitutability, while peripheral synonyms have limited semantic and stylistic freedom. Each of these types of synonymic networks is characterized by distinct behavior regarding lexical interconnection. In networks with a high degree of asymmetry, it is possible to substitute a peripheral synonym with the dominant synonym (peripheral synonym → dominant synonym). In networks with medium asymmetry, substitution occurs between a peripheral synonym and a nucleus synonym (peripheral synonym → nucleus synonym). In synonymic series with a low or null degree of asymmetry, replacement is possible among any of the synonyms (synonym → another synonym), reflecting a functional symmetry at the lexical level. Synonymic networks, characterized by varying degrees of asymmetry, also differ in terms of the possibility of synonym selection. Relative freedom in choosing synonyms is observed in series with medium and/or null asymmetry, where there is no strict threshold imposed by a dominant center. Beyond the degree of asymmetry, synonym interchangeability is determined by several contextual factors: the general meaning of the discourse, the significance and stability of syntagmatic structures, stylistic register, and the typology of the specialized text.

Stylistic and Aesthetic Values of Medical Synonyms. The functions of synonyms (intensification, diversification, specification, etc.) ensure the diversification of discourse, avoid redundant repetition of terms, and contribute to increasing precision in specialized communication. The aesthetic dimension of medical terms is essential; for example, *the categories of beautiful/ugly* and *grotesque/comic/tragic*. Terms of mythological origin *(melotherapy, aromatherapy, chromotherapy, fibula, microflora*, etc.) evoke harmony, sensory pleasure, and perfection, providing expressiveness and aesthetic value. In contrast, *the category of ugliness* is associated with suffering and biological imbalance, marked by terms such as *maladie*, *Medusa's head*, or *vampire syndrome*, which attribute a symbolic, expressive, and cultural dimension to disease. *The grotesque* manifests visually and shockingly (*hydrocephalus, elephantiasis, gigantism*, etc.), while *the comic* appears through metaphor, onomatopoeia, and analogies with the animal or object world (*donkey-like cough, wolf's mouth, restless legs syndrome,* etc.). *Tragic* elements complete the aesthetic tableau, exemplified by the synonymic series of *death* and *the Hippocratic face*, illustrating the emotional impact of pathological realities. Medical terminological synonymy shapes the aesthetic, affective, and cognitive experience of knowledge, generating an expressive and humanized medical discourse.

Pragmatic Dimension. The benefits of medical terminological synonymy include linguistic accessibility (e.g., *angina pectoris* can also be explained as *ischemic-type chest pain*); adaptability

to different communication registers (e.g., *leukemia* and *blood cancer* denote the same concept but are addressed to different audiences); compatibility with natural languages; support for terminological "mapping" and equivalence (medical terminology vs. informatics); cognitive and conceptual flexibility (didactic purposes), etc. Despite its utility, the phenomenon of synonymy poses several challenges in the context of standardized terminology: ambiguity and semantic overlap (e.g., *trauma* can denote a physical injury or psychological suffering); inconsistency in usage; difficulties in coding and classification; failure of perfect synonymy (*absolute synonyms* are rather rare); and impact on automated processes (medical terminology vs. informatics). In clinical terminology, synonymy appears in **interface terminology**, intended for structured clinical documentation through informatics tools. This includes synonymic series, acronyms, explanatory formulations, and eponyms (e.g., *myocardial infarction = heart attack; MI = myocardial infarction; Levine sign = description of ischemic cardiac chest pain*).

Case Study [*ibid*.]: A patient describes "a mild, dull discomfort across the entire chest," and the clinical equivalent of this formulation is the specialized term *chest discomfort*. The physician may consider the two elements of the description – "mild, dull discomfort" (= discomfort) and "across the entire chest" (= chest) – as acceptable synonyms in the doctor–patient relationship, although they may convey slightly different semantic nuances. The medical concept *chest discomfort* thus integrates the essential components of the patient's complaints. One of the core objectives of interface clinical terminology – complete and coherent coverage of the targeted domain through concepts and the relationships among them – is achieved through the mechanisms of precoordination and postcoordination. **Precoordination** involves generating all possible combinations of complex concepts in advance, producing an exhaustive list that ensures rapid access to information and swift retrieval of a specific concept by users. **Postcoordination** allows users to independently construct complex concepts by combining several general and specialized terms according to their needs.

Didactic Dimension of Medical Terminological Synonymy. A pragmatic aspect of studying synonymy is the perception and understanding of medical terminology, which ensures specialized communication (accessible to the general public) and facilitates the acquisition of terms. In this context, the questionnaire *Synonyms in Medical Terminology* was developed and distributed to students at USMF "Nicolae Testemițanu." Respondents' opinions were evaluated regarding the status, role, and use of synonymy in various medical contexts. The methodology involved qualitative analysis of definitions and open-ended comments, as well as assessment of the level of terminological specialization required in *doctor–doctor*, *doctor–patient*, and *doctor–society* communication.

The results show that synonymy is perceived as inevitable (74.02%), necessary in the teaching/learning process (67.45%), and an indicator of professional competence (56.17%). About 48% of respondents mentioned difficulties such as ambiguity and extra processing time. Students define synonyms pragmatically, noting their role in clarifying concepts and explaining diagnoses in accessible terms. Most consider a high level of synonymic knowledge essential for doctor–doctor communication (77.16%) and a moderate level sufficient for doctor–patient interaction (90.55%), indicating context-dependent usage. Terminological and aesthetic values of synonyms were rated "high" or "very high" by 72.7% of participants. Greco-Latin elements were identified as fundamental for forming and understanding international synonymy (60.37%), aiding decoding and strengthening synonymic networks. Open-ended responses emphasized efficient communication, professional growth, stepwise didactic strategies in learning synonymic series.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study of the phenomenon of synonymy in medical terminology constitutes a current and highly significant subject. Synonymy does not represent mere redundancy; rather, it is an inevitable functional feature, generated by technical and scientific progress, which necessitates the development of terminologies and the formation of synonymic series.

1. Factors Influencing Synonymy in Medical Terminology. The establishment of synonymic relationships in medical terminology was analyzed based on: a) *linguistic factors* – etymological origin, coexistence of native and borrowed terms, presence of international terms, and functional-semantic structure; b) *extralinguistic factors* – technical and scientific progress, replacement of obsolete concepts, influence of modern languages, and diversity of usage contexts. The study was grounded in the theories of Ferdinand de Saussure and Eugenio Coseriu, who view language as an organized system in which stability and innovation coexist (syntagmatic and paradigmatic axes). The historical overview highlighted the transition from a rhetorical-stylistic perception to a specialized one, focused on semantic distinctions and the impossibility of absolute synonymy.

2. Theoretical Perspectives. The phenomenon was elucidated through:

General Terminology Theory (Wüster) – logical-cognitive and conceptual analysis enabled the identification of the functional-semantic field of synonymic series by highlighting hypo-/hyperonymic relationships, symmetry/asymmetry, and the macrostructure of the series (dominant and peripheral components); *Communicative Terminology Theory* (Cabré) **–** development of the concept of *terminological synonymy* as a source of representation of specialized knowledge.

3. Definition and Structure of Terminological Synonymic Series. A series of terminological synonyms was defined as a network of lexical units associated through semantic identity or similarity, but also through significant "differences," integrated into macrostructures: functional-semantic fields, paradigms, or terminological groups. The taxonomic perspective allowed the delineation of semantic, morpho-structural, functional, and conceptual differences. Redefined terminological synonymy facilitates understanding and the development of synonymic networks. Sources of variation include *the name-definition opposition, interaction of scientific terms with derived meanings, influence of international languages, register variation, abbreviated and full forms, acronyms and initialisms, trade names vs. generic terms, dialectal differences, polysemy, homonymy,* and *paronymy*. Morphological analysis shows the predominance of nouns, followed by verbs and adjectives; each of these parts of speech has specific functions in medical terminology: a) nouns form the core of the terminology, illustrating etymological and functional diversity; b) verbs are less frequent but reveal variation in degrees of specialization; c) adjectives allow precise description of anatomical or pathological characteristics. Etiological analysis confirmed that medical synonymy reflects an evolutionary process influenced by historical-linguistic factors, sociopragmatic requirements, and linguistic interactions (translations, borrowings).

4. Logical-Cognitive Approach. The logical-cognitive approach (hypo-/hyperonymy, hierarchy, etc.) allows modeling of paradigmatic structures using cognitive concepts such as *prototype* and *semantic features.* Macrostructural analysis of the synonymic series for the terms *abdomen*, *dermis*, and *umbilicus* revealed distinct functional-semantic organizations, integrating specialized language, colloquial expressions, and metaphorical language. The establishment of relationships within a synonymic series was elucidated from the perspectives of *symmetry/asymmetry,* the influence of linguistic and extralinguistic factors, and pragmatics.

5. Aesthetic Dimension of Medical Synonymy. The aesthetic dimension highlights the expressive role of terms. Medical terms included in synonymic relationships were analyzed in relation to *the categories beautiful/ugly and grotesque/comic/tragic*. This analysis demonstrated the process of humanization to which medical terminology is subjected.

6. Dual Status of Synonymic Series in Medical Texts. Analysis of medical texts argued for a dual status of synonymic series used in medical terminology: a) deficiencies – risk of ambiguity, lack of uniformity, persistence of obsolete terms; b) benefits – communicative flexibility, clarity for non-specialists, preservation of tradition, and semantic precision achieved through redundancy.

7. Empirical Study. An empirical study, conducted via a questionnaire completed by 381 medical students, highlighted varying perceptions of the phenomenon of synonymy: some consider it beneficial, while others perceive it as a difficulty in the acquisition of medical terminology.

Knowledge of Latin facilitates the learning of terminology, with Greco-Latin terms being more easily recognized and understood.

8. Inventory of Frequently Used Synonymic Series. An inventory was developed including the most frequently used synonymic series in medicine (anatomy, clinical practice, pharmacy) – 100 head terms (selected from the *Dictoo.eu* platform). Selection was based on functional-semantic criteria, term frequency in specialized literature and everyday usage, privileging representative synonymic networks validated lexicographically. The analysis focused on the structure, typology, and dynamics of synonymy in three domains of medicine: anatomical terminology, clinical terminology, and pharmaceutical terminology.

Recommendations:

1. Develop an integrated and dynamic approach to terminological synonymy that goes beyond traditional methods and explores differential and contextual relationships among terms at the level of synonymic networks.
2. Conduct research on terminological synonymy in relation to standardization norms, supporting effective management of synonymy in artificial intelligence systems and automated natural language processing, avoiding ambiguities and ensuring data interoperability (including medical data).
3. Develop adapted didactic methodologies to prepare future specialists in the field by enabling competent acquisition and use of medical terms within a synonymic series.
4. Cognitive linguistics and macrosystemic modeling of synonymic series represent a promising avenue for further studies, leveraging hierarchical concepts, prototypes, lexical semantic features, etc., to create ontologies and terminological dictionaries that reflect their complexity and dynamics.
5. Clarifying the aesthetic-pragmatic value of terminological synonymy allows its integration into medical education and constitutes a means of humanizing medical knowledge.
6. The development of a terminological inventory with synonymic series serves as a model for creating other inventories containing comprehensive and contextualized documentation of terms (including medical terms) within a synonymic series in Romanian, highlighting regional, historical, and functional variability.

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ANNOTATION

Viorica Costin, Synonymy of Medical Terms in the Romanian Language: Evolution and Trends. PhD thesis in Philology, Chișinău, 2025.

Structure: The thesis consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, a bibliography (184 titles), 3 appendices, 15 tables, and 147 pages of main text. The results obtained on the topic of the thesis are reflected in 16 scientific publications.

Keywords: medical terminology, synonymy/ synonym terminological synonymic series, synonymic "differences", logical-cognitive perspective, conceptual perspective, synonymic etiology, synonymic macrosystem, prototype, sem, semantic-functional field, semantic hierarchy.

Aims and Objectives: The thesis aims to elucidate the semantic-functional specificity of terminological synonymy from logic-cognitive, conceptual, and taxonomic perspectives, among others, by referring to the General Theory of Terminology and the Communicative Theory of Terminology. It seeks to define the phenomenon of terminological synonymy based on "differences" (semantic field, group, paradigm); to model and hierarchize synonymy (macrosystem); to model the symmetry/asymmetry of the synonymic series; to explore the aesthetic dimension; and to highlight the balance between benefits and shortcomings in synonymic series within medical terminology.

Scientific Novelty and Originality: The novelty lies in approaching medical terminological synonymy as a relationship between specialized lexical units defined not only by semantic identity or similarity, but also by functional, structural, and conceptual"differences," in relation to a macrostructure (funcțional-semantic field, group, paradigm).The study proposes:a) macrosystemic modeling of the synonymic series; b) seme-based structuring of the synonymic network (dominant/peripheral synonym; symmetry/asymmetry – major, moderate, null); c) logic-conceptual analysis of hyperonymic/hyponymic relationships in the functional- semantic field of a synonymic series.

Main Results: For the first time, a complex and holistic approach to the phenomenon of synonymy is applied to the Romanian medical terminological system (from both a retrospective and prospective viewpoint). The etiology and functionality of synonymic series in medicine are clarified from a conceptual perspective: macrosystem, conceptual symmetry/asymmetry, hyperonymy/hyponymy; the medical modeling highlights the synonymic potential in the medical field. The definition of synonymy through "differences" emphasizes the role of scholarly-origin terms, which form the core of a synonymic series.

Theoretical Significance and Applicative Value: The study offers a theoretical and practical reevaluation of synonymy in medical terminology, surpassing the classical conception of absolute identity and bringing synonymic "differences" to the forefront. It highlights the relational, contextual, and dynamic nature of the phenomenon. Through the integration of the Communicative Theory of Terminology (CTT), the study provides a macrostructural perspective on synonymic series, analyzed in relation to the cognitive prototype, semantic seme, and conceptual hierarchies. It is a relevant contribution to linguistics, terminology, didactics, and medicine, providing tools for the modernization and unification of medical terminology at the level of synonymic series. Furthermore, it advocates for the consolidation of medical terminology, in which synonymy holds cognitive, specialized, and cultural value. The exploration of the aesthetics of medical terms originally complements the scientific dimension of the study, highlighting the deeply human nature of medical language. **Implementation of Scientific Results**: The theoretical solutions and practical outcomes were implemented at the "Nicolae Testemițanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (USMF), within the Romanian Language and Medical Terminology course, addressed to both local and international students and residents. The curriculum content was adapted to highlight the functional role of synonymy in authentic medical communication. Moreover, the tools developed during the research were integrated into interactive teaching activities, contributing to the development of linguistic and terminological competencies in the medical field.

ADNOTARE

Viorica Costin, *Sinonimia termenilor medicali în limba română: evoluție și tendințe.*
Teză de doctor în filologie, Chișinău, 2025.

Structura tezei constă din introducere, trei capitole, concluzii și recomandări, bibliografie (184 de titluri), 3 anexe, 15 tabele și 147 de pagini de text de bază. Rezultatele obținute la tema tezei sunt reflectate în 16 lucrări științifice.

Cuvinte-cheie: terminologie medicală, sinonimie/sinonim, serie sinonimică terminologică, „diferențe" sinonimice, perspectivă logic-cognitivă, perspectivă conceptuală, etiologie sinonimică, macrosistem sinonimic, prototip, sem, câmp funcțional-semantic, ierarhizare semantică.

Scopul și obiectivele rezidă în elucidarea specificului funcțional-semantic al *fenomenului de sinonimie terminologică*, din perspectivele logic-cognitivă, conceptuală, taxonomică etc., prin raportarea la *Teoria Terminologică Generală* și la *Teoria Terminologică a Comunicării;* definirea fenomenului de sinonimie terminologică în baza „diferențelor" (câmp semantic, grup, paradigmă; modelarea și ierarhizarea sinonimică (macrosistem); modelarea simetriei/asimetriei la seriile sinonimice, elucidarea dimensiunii estetice, relevarea echilibrului beneficii și deficiențe la nivel de serii sinonimice în terminologia medicală etc.

Noutatea și originalitatea științifică constau în abordarea sinonimiei terminologice medicale ca relație între unități lexicale specializate, definite nu doar prin identitate sau similitudine semantică, ci și prin
„diferențe" funcționale, structurale și conceptuale, în raport cu o macrostructură (câmp funcțional-semantic, grup, paradigmă). Studiul propune: a) modelarea macrosistemică a seriei sinonimice; b) articularea semică a rețelei sinonimice (sinonim dominant/periferic; simetrie/asimetrie – majoră, medie, nulă); c) analiza logic- conceptuală a relațiilor hiperonimice și hiponimice în câmpul funcțional-semantic al unei serii sinonimice.

Rezultatele obținute: s-a realizat, pentru prima dată, o abordare complexă și holistică a fenomenului de sinonimie, prezent în sistemul terminologic medical în limba română (diacronie și sincronimie). Etiologia și funcționalitatea seriilor sinonimice în medicină au fost elucidate din perspectivă conceptuală: macrosistem, simetrie/asimetrie conceptuală, hipo-/hiperonimie; modelarea medicală relevând potențialul sinonimic în domeniul medicinei. Definirea sinonimiei prin „diferențe" a pus în valoare rolul termenilor de origine savantă, care formează nucleul unei serii sinonimice. Totodată, s-a evidențiat faptul că sinonimia nu este un fenomen marginal, ci o componentă esențială a organizării conceptuale și a expresivității limbajului medical.

Semnificația teoretică și valoarea aplicativă: reevaluarea teoretic-aplicativă a sinonimiei în terminologia medicală, depășind concepția clasică a identității absolute și relevând „diferențele" sinonimice; evidențierea caracterului relațional, contextual și dinamic al acestui fenomen. Prin integrarea *Teoriei Terminologice a Comunicării* (TTC), studiul oferă o perspectivă macrostructurală asupra seriilor sinonimice, analizate în raport cu prototipul cognitiv, semul semantic și ierarhiile conceptuale. Este un studiu relevant pentru lingvistică, terminologie, didactică și medicină, punând la dispoziție instrumente de actualizare și de unificare a terminologiei medicale, la nivel de serii sinonimice. Totodată, se optează pentru consolidarea terminologiei medicale, în care sinonimia deține valențe cognitive, specializate, culturale etc. Explorarea esteticii termenilor medicali completează în mod original dimensiunea științifică a studiului, reliefând natura profund umană a limbajului medical.

Implementarea rezultatelor științifice: soluțiile teoretice și rezultatele practice au fost implementate la USMF „Nicolae Testemițanu", în cadrul Cursului de Limba română și terminologie medicală, destinat studenților și rezidenților, autohtoni și străini. Conținuturile curriculare au fost adaptate pentru a evidenția funcționalitatea sinonimiei în comunicarea medicală autentică. Totodată, instrumentele elaborate în cadrul cercetării au fost valorificate în activități didactice interactive, contribuind la dezvoltarea competențelor lingvistice și terminologice în domeniul medical.

АННОТАЦИЯ

Виорика Костин, Синонимия медицинских терминов в румынском языке: эволюция и тенденции.Диссертация на соискание учёной степени доктора филологических наук, Кишинёв, 2025.

Структура: диссертация состоит из введения, трёх глав, выводов и рекомендаций, библиографии (184 наименований), 3 приложений, 15 таблиц и 147 страниц основного текста. Полученные результаты по теме диссертации отражены в 16 научных публикациях.

Ключевые слова: медицинская терминология, синонимия/синоним, терминологический синонимический ряд, синонимические «различия», логико-когнитивная перспектива, концептуальная перспектива, этиология синонимов, синонимическая макросистема, прототип, сем, функционально-семантическое поле, семантическая иерархия.

Цель и задачи: диссертация направлена на выявление семантико-функциональной специфики терминологической синонимии с логико-когнитивной, концептуальной, таксономической и других точек зрения, с Tabe на Общую теорию терминологии и Коммуникативную теорию терминологии. Исследование ставит цель определить явление терминологической синонимии на основе «различий» (семантическое поле, группа, парадигма); смоделировать и иерархизировать синонимы (макросистема); проанализировать симметрию/асимметрию синонимических рядов; исследовать эстетическое измерение; выявить баланс между преимуществами и недостатками в пределах синонимических рядов в медицинской терминологии.

Научная новизна и оригинальность: рассмотрении медицинской термино-логической синонимии как отношения между специализированными лексическими единицами, определяемыми не только через семантическую идентичность или сходство, но и через функциональные, структурные и концептуальные «различия» в рамках макро-структуры (лексико- семантическое поле, группа, парадигма). В исследовании предлагается: а)макросистемное моделирование синонимического ряда; б) семное структурирование синонимической сети (доминирующий/периферийный синоним; симметрия/асимметрия-высокая, средняя, нулевая); в) логико-концептуальный анализ гиперонимичес ких /гипонимических отношений в функционально-семантическом поле синонимического ряда.

Основные результаты: впервые в румынской медицинской терминологической системе применён комплексный и целостный подход к явлению синонимии (в ретроспективном и перспективном аспектах). Этиология и функциональность синонимических рядов в медицине были раскрыты с концептуальной точки зрения: макросистема, концептуальная симметрия/асимметрия, гиперо-/гипонимия; медицинское моделирование выявило синонимический потенциал в данной области. Определение синонимии через «различия» подчеркнуло роль терминов научного происхождения, составляющих ядро синонимического ряда.

Теоретическое значение и прикладная ценность: исследование представляет собой теоретико- практическую переоценку синонимии в медицинской терминологии, преодолевающую классическое понимание абсолютной идентичности и выдвигающую на первый план синонимические «различия». Подчёркивается реляционный, контекстуальный и динамический характер данного явления. Благодаря интеграции Коммуникативной теории терминологии (КТТ) предложен макроструктурный подход к анализу синонимических рядов, рассмотренных в связи с когнитивным прототипом, семантической семой и концептуальными иерархиями. Работа представляет интерес для лингвистики, терминологии, педагогики и медицины, предлагая инструменты для модернизации и унификации медицинской терминологии на уровне синонимических рядов. Кроме того, подчёркивается необходимость консолидации медицинской терминологии, в которой синонимия обладает когнитивной, специализированной и культурной ценностью. Исследование эстетики медицинских терминов органично дополняет научное измерение работы, раскрывая глубоко человеческую природу медицинского языка.

Внедрение научных результатов: теоретические выводы и практические наработки были внедрены в Государственном университете медицины и фармации им. Николая Тестемицану (USMF), в рамках курса «Румынский язык и медицинская терминология» для студентов и резидентов.

COSTIN VIORICA

SYNONYMY OF MEDICAL TERMS IN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE: EVOLUTION AND TRENDS

621.04 – LEXICOLOGY AND LEXICOGRAPHY, TERMINOLOGY AND SPECIALIZED LANGUAGES

Abstract of PhD Thesis in Philology

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