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OIL AND GAS VOCABULARY IN THE CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LANGUAGE: A TERMINOLOGICAL AND DISCURSIVE ANALYSIS

This article examines the influence of English-language discourse on the formation and development of oil and gas terminology in the Chinese language. Under the conditions of globalization and international cooperation, China's terminological system undergoes active borrowing and adaptation of foreign lexical units, which leads both to the enrichment of professional language and to challenges in translation and terminology unification.

The study analyzes the main borrowing mechanisms, including calquing, transliteration, and semantic adaptation. Special attention is given to the challenges of translating oil and gas terminology, which arise due to the absence of direct equivalents, differences in term structure models, and the influence of cultural factors. Contemporary approaches to standardization and unification of industry-specific vocabulary are considered, including the development of dictionaries, the use of international standards, and the implementation of electronic databases for the professional community.

Based on the analysis conducted, possible directions for further research are proposed, including automated translation of technical terminology, the study of borrowing dynamics, and a comparative analysis of oil and gas vocabulary in China and other Asian countries. The findings of this study may be useful for specialists in the oil and gas industry, translators, and researchers engaged in linguistics and technical communication.

Keywords: oil and gas terminology, the Chinese language, English-language discourse, translation, adaptation, standardization, international standards, technical communication.

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Қазіргі қытай тіліндегі мұнай-газ терминологиясы: терминологиялық және дискурстық талдау

Бұл мақалада ағылшын тілді дискурстың қытай тіліндегі мұнай-газ терминологиясының қалыптасуы мен дамуына ықпалы қарастырылады. Ғаламдану және халықаралық ынтымақтастық жағдайында Қытайдың терминологиялық жүйесі шетелдік лексикалық бірліктерді белсенді түрде қабылдап, бейімдеуде. Бұл кәсіби тілдің байытылуына әкелсе де, аудармада және терминологияны біріздендіруде қиындықтар туғызады.

Зерттеуде калькалау, транслитерация және мағыналық бейімдеу сияқты негізгі кірігу механизмдері талданады. Мұнай-газ терминологиясын аудару барысында туындайтын қиындықтарға – тура баламалардың жоқтығы, термин үлгілерінің құрылымдық ерекшеліктері және мәдени факторлардың әсері ерекше назар аударылады.

Сала терминологиясын стандарттау мен біріздендірудің қазіргі тәсілдері қарастырылады: салалық сөздіктерді жасау, халықаралық стандарттарды пайдалану және кәсіби қауымдастық үшін электрондық дерекқорларды енгізу.

Жүргізілген талдау нәтижесінде болашақ зерттеулердің мүмкін бағыттары ұсынылады: техникалық терминологияны автоматтандырылған аудару, кірме сөздердің динамикасын зерттеу және Қытай мен басқа азиялық елдердің мұнай-газ терминологиясын салыстырмалы талдау.

Бұл зерттеудің қорытындылары мұнай-газ саласының мамандарына, аудармашыларға және лингвистика мен техникалық коммуникация саласында жұмыс істейтін зерттеушілерге пайдалы болуы мүмкін.

Түйін сөздер: мұнай-газ терминологиясы, қытай тілі, ағылшын тілді дискурс, аударма, бейімдеу, стандарттау, халықаралық стандарттар, техникалық коммуникация.

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Нефтегазовая лексика в современном китайском языке: терминологический и дискурсивный анализ

В данной статье рассматривается влияние англоязычного дискурса на формирование и развитие нефтегазовой терминологии в китайском языке. В условиях глобализации и международного сотрудничества терминологическая система Китая активно заимствует и адаптирует иностранные лексические единицы, что приводит как к обогащению профессионального языка, так и к возникновению проблем при переводе и унификации терминологии. В исследовании анализируются основные механизмы заимствования, включая калькирование, транслитерацию и семантическую адаптацию. Особое внимание уделяется трудностям перевода нефтегазовой терминологии, связанным с отсутствием прямых эквивалентов, различиями в моделях структуры терминов и влиянием культурных факторов.

Рассматриваются современные подходы к стандартизации и унификации отраслевой лексики, включая разработку словарей, использование международных стандартов и внедрение электронных баз данных для профессионального сообщества.

На основе проведённого анализа предлагаются возможные направления дальнейших исследований, такие как автоматизированный перевод технической терминологии, изучение динамики заимствований и сравнительный анализ нефтегазовой лексики Китая и других азиатских стран. Результаты данного исследования могут быть полезны специалистам нефтегазовой отрасли, переводчикам, а также исследователям в области лингвистики и технической коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: нефтегазовая терминология, китайский язык, англоязычный дискурс, перевод, адаптация, стандартизация, международные стандарты, техническая коммуникация.

Introduction

The late 20th and early 21st centuries have been marked by the active development of science, various industries, and international cooperation. Globalization processes have influenced most spheres of human activity, stimulating large-scale integration and fostering active international collaboration in various fields of business, industry, science, and culture. Today, the oil and gas industry holds a leading position in the global economy. In recent years, the world has closely followed the development of this sector, new market trends, and pricing indicators, as extracted fuel sources have become a powerful resource for political and economic influence on both regional and global scales. As a result, interest has grown in various aspects of the industry, including communication features, professional relationships, and business interactions within the sector. Consequently, the sublanguage of the oil and gas industry constitutes a distinct area of modern linguistic research as a specialized domain of business communication.

The oil and gas industry plays a key role in China's economy, serving as a primary energy source and supporting a significant portion of the country's industrial production. In the context of globalization and active international cooperation, the precise and unambiguous use of specialized terminology be-

comes particularly important. Studying the features of oil and gas terminology in the Chinese language contributes to more effective professional communication, reduces the risks of misunderstandings and translation errors in technical documentation, and ultimately influences the success of joint projects and the overall development of the industry.

The aim of this study is to identify and describe the linguo-cognitive mechanisms of term formation in the oil and gas industry in the Chinese language, as well as to analyze the characteristics of its usage in professional discourse. To achieve this goal, the following objectives must be addressed: to analyze the processes of specialized term formation in Chinese based on oil and gas industry materials; to examine the lexical and semantic features of oil and gas terminology; to explore the challenges of translating oil and gas terms from Chinese into other languages and vice versa; to assess the impact of international terminology on the formation of Chinese oil and gas terms.

Materials and methods

To achieve the stated objectives, the study will employ the following methods. Terminology analysis: examining the structure, origin, and formation processes of oil and gas terms in the Chinese language. This will help identify the main term-

formation models and understand how specialized vocabulary is integrated into the language. Discourse analysis: investigating the use of oil and gas terminology across various types of professional discourse, including scientific articles, technical documentation, and business correspondence. This will allow for the identification of contextual features of term usage and their role in professional communication. The comprehensive application of these methods will provide a thorough understanding of the characteristics of oil and gas vocabulary in modern Chinese. This has practical significance for specialists working in translation, linguistics, and the oil and gas industry.

One of the factors influencing the optimization of the scientific information exchange process, which is currently experiencing a high level of development, is the advancement and continuous improvement of linguistic means of information transmission. Among these, terms play a central role – they are words or word combinations that represent a unity of sound form and meaning, correlated with the system of concepts within a given field of science and technology (Samigullina L., Samigullina E., 2018).

In modern linguistics, two main approaches to the study of terms are recognized: the normative and the descriptive. The normative approach considers a term as a specific type of lexical unit with a distinct semantic and grammatical structure that differentiates it from words of the general literary language. Proponents of the normative approach have established requirements for terms, emphasizing that they must be unambiguous, precise, systematic, concise, and devoid of synonyms and antonyms. Scholars such as A. A. Reformatsky, D. S. Lotte, and V. I. Siforov adhere to this approach, viewing terms not as dynamic elements functioning in spoken language and therefore subject to change, but as static elements within the domain of formalized knowledge. In linguistics, such a term is referred to as an “ideal term.”

In the study of terms within their functional sphere, proponents of the descriptive approach have questioned the validity of treating terms as static elements within a fixed system (R. Yu. Kobrin, G. O. Vinokur, B. N. Golovin, V. P. Danilenko). The specificity of a term within the descriptive approach lies in the idea that a term is not a special word in itself but rather a word in a special function. In other words, any word can become a term, and any term can transition into the realm of general-use vocabulary. Consequently, a term can

be polysemous and may have synonyms and antonyms.

Modern research supports the perspective of descriptive approach proponents, a viewpoint we fully share. By the early 21st century, the understanding of a term as a newly introduced linguistic unit had significantly evolved. This shift is linked to the increasing level of abstraction in definitions assigned to newly coined terms, resulting in greater semantic flexibility compared to terms that previously served the needs of earlier knowledge. The term is now regarded as a tool of scientific communication, characterized by the multifaceted and multifunctional aspects of its representation.

Several academic studies have explored the use of oil and gas terminology in modern Chinese. These studies primarily focus on the formation, structure, and translation issues of specialized terms. In her article “*Formation of Oil and Gas-Related Terms in the Chinese Language*,” Gulzhanat Darkhanqyzy Nurmukhambetova examines the semantics and functions of terms used in oil and gas production. The author notes that the semantics and functions of oil and gas terminology in Kazakh and Chinese remain insufficiently studied. Additionally, the increasing presence of foreign investors in Kazakhstan’s oil and gas sector further highlights the relevance of this topic (Nurmukhambetova G., 2022).

In her article “*The Scientific Characteristics of Terminological Phrases in the Oil and Gas Industry*,” Aigerim Smagulova discusses the terminology of the Kazakh language, particularly the formation and development of oil and gas terms. The author examines the theoretical foundations of terminology studies as well as the structural and functional characteristics of oil and gas terms (Smagulova A., 2020).

The Russian researcher M. S. Yanchak, in her article “*The Complexity of Translating Oil Industry Terms in the Chinese Language*,” explores the formation of oil and gas terminology in Chinese as it appears in scientific journals and articles dedicated to oil extraction and refining (Yanchak M., 2018).

Although these studies do not directly focus on the terminological and discursive analysis of oil and gas vocabulary in Chinese, they contribute to a broader understanding of terminology issues in this field and serve as a foundation for future research. However, despite the existing studies, a comprehensive terminological and discursive analysis of oil and gas vocabulary usage in modern Chinese remains insufficiently explored, which corroborates the necessity of this research.

Results and Discussion

Scientific and technical languages fall within the domain of specialized language, both employing specific terminology and abbreviations (Linguaserve, 2021). The language of oil and gas is considered a specialized and technical form of English, used by industry professionals. It is universal and encompasses a wide range of disciplines and professions, including the petroleum industry, mechanics, electrical engineering, information technology, civil engineering, environmental protection, and geology. Petroleum engineering is the core discipline, dealing with both subsurface and surface operations such as exploration, extraction, and refining of crude oil. Consequently, drilling, well workover operations, water injection, and crude oil processing all fall under the oil and gas sector (Honeycutt & McCleroy, 2023).

Each of these technical disciplines functions independently, possessing its own terminology and discourse. However, since all these fields are integrated into the oil and gas language, it is regarded as a broad, interdisciplinary, and complex discourse. As in other industries and professions, the oil and gas sector has its unique terminology and mode of communication (Owhoko, 2020).

According to the foreign researcher A. Abdullah, the oil and gas language falls under the umbrella of technical language, and the lexical and syntactic characteristics of technical language are applicable to oil and gas discourse. The researcher adds *“the use of jargon”* to this list, emphasizing that the oil and gas industry has its own distinctive jargon or slang. This jargon may refer to specific equipment, processes, or personnel responsible for specialized tasks. For instance, terms such as *roughneck*, *mudlogger*, and *frac job* serve as examples of oil and gas jargon. The researcher concludes that *“the language of oil and gas, in its characteristics, resembles technical language, while oil and gas discourse is interdisciplinary and rich in terminology and abbreviations.”* (Abdullah A., 2024).

Texts on petroleum science and technology in English and Chinese possess unique linguistic features and expressions. These two types of texts not only convey knowledge and information in the field of petroleum science and technology but also reflect cultural connotations and thematic characteristics of the language (Wang X., 2023). According to the Chinese scholar X. Wang, petroleum science and technology texts in English and Chinese exhibit distinct linguistic traits and expressions. They serve as

carriers of specialized knowledge while simultaneously embodying cultural nuances and domain-specific linguistic features (Wang X., 2023).

Petroleum and gas terminology encompasses specialized terms and expressions used in the extraction, processing, and transportation of oil and gas. In Chinese, these terms constitute a specialized terminological field covering various industry aspects. The formation of petroleum-related terminology in Chinese occurs through several primary processes. First, borrowing plays a crucial role. Many terms are adopted from other languages, particularly English, due to the global nature of the oil and gas industry. There are two key reasons for borrowing foreign words: first, the necessity of expressing new concepts, and second, the need to update the lexical system by replacing outdated, less expressive linguistic units with newer, more precise ones (Semenas A., 2005: 212]. For example, the term «油» (yóu) is correspondent to the English «oil». Secondly, calque. This method includes a word-to-word translation of the foreign terms. For example, the English term «oil field» is translated as «油田» (yóutián), where «油» means «oil», and «田» – «field». This term is formed through a semantic method, as a new word has been created using existing morphemes of the Chinese language to convey the same meaning as in English. Third, neologisms also play a significant role in terminology formation – new words are coined to denote specific concepts that do not previously exist in the language. For example, the term «页岩气» (yè yán qì) means «shale gas», where «页岩» means «shale», and «气» – «gas».

Now, let us compare Chinese oil and gas terminology with English, Kazakh, and Russian terminology. Many Chinese terms are calques or borrowings from English, reflecting the global dominance of English in the oil and gas industry. In Kazakh, there is a significant influence from both English and Russian. Terms are often formed through calquing or borrowing. For example, the English word *oil* corresponds to the Kazakh *мұнай*, while *gas* is *газ*. The Russian language also influences Kazakh terminology, acting as an intermediary in borrowing English terms. For instance, the English *vacuum* became *вакуум* in Russian and *ваккум* in Kazakh (Smagulova A., 2010: 5). Thus, oil and gas vocabulary in Chinese is formed through a combination of borrowings, calquing, and the creation of neologisms, ensuring precision and universality of terminology in a global context.

Let us now examine the lexical and semantic features of oil and gas terminology in the Chinese

language. The influence of one language on another is most clearly expressed not in phonetics or grammar but in vocabulary, specifically in the borrowing of lexical elements from one language into another. As a rule, oil and gas terminology in Chinese encompasses several key categories.

For example, «钻井» (zuǎnjǐng) – «well drilling» – these are the terms related to the processes of retrieving oil and gas from the depth of the earth. The vocabulary describing the processing of crude oil and gas, for instance, «炼油» (liànyóu) – «oil processing». The terms related to the displacement of oil and gas products, for instance, «输油管道» (shūyóu guǎndào) – «oil pipeline». «环境影响» (huánjìng yǐngxiǎng) – «influence on the environment» – that is the term related to the ecological aspects of oil and gas industry.

Within this study, it is important to highlight that the main methods of forming oil and gas terminology in Chinese include compounding, affixation, calquing, and metaphorical term formation. For example, “石油化工” (shíyóu huàgōng) consists of “石油” (shíyóu) – “oil” and “化工” (huàgōng) – “chemical industry,” which together mean “petrochemical industry.” This term was formed through compounding, which involves combining two or more morphemes of the Chinese language (Yakovleva E., 2015).

An example of term formation through affixation is the use of suffixes or prefixes to create new words. For instance, adding the suffix “性” (xìng) to the root “腐蚀” (fǔshí) – “corrosion” forms “腐蚀性” (fǔshíxìng) – “corrosiveness.” The largest group of terms and terminological combinations in the Chinese language consists of examples that have emerged through semantic borrowing (calquing), meaning the literal translation of foreign terms (Khafizova L., 2015).

The Chinese language, as a form of ideographic writing, possesses a rich and diverse vocabulary, often characterized by polysemy. In scientific and technological texts on petroleum, the same word may have different meanings and be used in various ways, requiring precise understanding in accordance with the context. Additionally, Chinese is adept at employing metaphors, personifications, and other rhetorical devices to enhance expressiveness and add vividness to the text (Zhou B., 2018: 181). Consequently, one of the most consistent methods of term formation is metaphorization. In Chinese, the creation of oil and gas industry terms involves the same conceptual domains as sources of metaphorical conceptualization found in other

languages – objects created by humans, the structure of humans and animals, and the natural world serve as bases for metaphorical analogy. For example, the term 瓣阀式浮鞋 (bànfá shì fú xié) employs the metaphor “鞋” (xié) – “shoe” to illustrate equipment resembling a “shoe.” The term 法兰盲板 (fǎ lán máng bǎn) incorporates the metaphor “盲” (máng) – “blind.” This semantic transfer is based on the similarity between the function of the equipment and the functioning of human or animal sensory organs: an isolating device is named based on the perception of a blind person as being isolated from the world (Lelyukh Yu., 2018).

Let us consider the discourse analysis of oil and gas terminology usage, which involves studying the features of specialized terms in various types of professional communication, including official documents, scientific articles, and business interactions. The professional discourse of the oil and gas industry is characterized by specific vocabulary and a distinct communication style, reflecting the unique aspects of this field. The oil and gas industry possesses an extensive terminology that includes technical terms, professionalisms, and jargon. These linguistic units ensure precision and efficiency in communication among specialists.

Features of the professional discourse of oil and gas industry

1. Official Documents: In official documents, such as technical regulations and standards, oil and gas terminology is used with maximum precision and unambiguity. Terms are strictly defined to avoid ambiguity and ensure uniform understanding. For example: 石油储备 (shíyóu chǔbèi) – strategic oil reserve; 天然气管道 (tiānránqì guǎndào) – natural gas pipeline; 钻井平台 (zuǎnjǐng píngtái) – drilling platform. These terms are used to designate key objects and processes in the oil and gas industry, ensuring accuracy and clarity in official texts.

2. Scientific Articles: In scientific publications, terminology is used to describe research, technologies, and processes. Here, not only precision but also the ability of terms to convey complex concepts and new discoveries is crucial. For example: 油气田开发 (yóuqìtián kāifā) – development of oil and gas fields; 钻井液性能评价 (zuǎnjǐng yè xìngnéng píngjià) – evaluation of drilling fluid properties; 储层渗透率 (chǔcéng shèntòulǜ) – reservoir permeability. The use of specialized terminology allows scientists to accurately communicate research findings and facilitates professional knowledge exchange.

3. Business Communication: In business communication, including negotiations and presentations, terminology can be adapted to the audience. For example, when communicating with partners, more general terms may be used, whereas within a team of specialists, highly specific vocabulary is applied. Examples include: 合同签署 (hétóng qiānshǔ) – contract signing; 设备维护 (shèbèi wéihù) – equipment maintenance; 生产能力 (shēngchǎn nénglì) – production capacity. The precise use of terminology in business communication promotes mutual understanding and effective collaboration between parties.

The professional discourse of the oil and gas industry is a complex and multifaceted system that reflects the technical, cultural, and social aspects of the field. Understanding these characteristics contributes to effective communication and successful professional activity. Thus, a discourse analysis of oil and gas terminology reveals its adaptation to various communicative situations, emphasizing the importance of accuracy, clarity, and contextual appropriateness in professional communication.

English-language discourse has a significant influence on oil and gas terminology in Chinese, which is evident in the borrowing of terms, calquing, and adaptation of English expressions. This is due to globalization and the dominance of English in international economics and science, which contributes to the enrichment of professional vocabulary.

In Chinese economic discourse, including the oil and gas sector, English borrowings are widely used. This phenomenon is also linked to globalization and the predominance of English in international business and scientific fields. Many English terms are directly borrowed or calqued into Chinese, enriching the professional lexicon. In China, linguistic studies on energy discourse are developing, incorporating critical discourse analysis (CDA) and critical metaphor analysis (CMA). These methods help identify the influence of English-language discourse on the formation and use of terminology in China's energy sector (Xu W., 2024: 83).

Understanding the impact of English-language discourse on oil and gas terminology has practical significance for specialists working in international companies and translators ensuring the accuracy and adequacy of specialized information transfer.

Thus, the English-language discourse plays a key role in the formation and development of oil and gas terminology in China, reflecting global trends and integration into the world economic community. Understanding the characteristics of Chinese

oil and gas terminology has practical significance for professionals working in international companies and translators ensuring the accurate transmission of specialized information. Given globalization and China's integration into the global economy, further development and enrichment of oil and gas terminology are expected, necessitating continuous knowledge updates and adaptation to new realities.

The translation and adaptation of oil and gas terms present a complex challenge due to the specificity of industry vocabulary and differences between language systems. The main issues include the structural features of terms, the absence of direct equivalents, and the influence of cultural factors. In Chinese, oil and gas terms are often multi-component, which complicates their translation into other languages.

For example, the term “油气田开发” (development of an oil and gas field) consists of four characters, each carrying a specific meaning. When translating, it is essential to consider word order and their interrelation to maintain accuracy in conveying the intended meaning. Some terms lack direct equivalents in other languages, necessitating the use of descriptive translations or borrowings. For instance, the term “井控” (well control) may not have an exact analogue in another language, requiring an explanatory translation.

Terminology can also reflect country-specific technologies or processes, complicating its adaptation. For example, oil extraction methods commonly used in China may differ from those in other countries, necessitating the creation of new terms during translation.

It should be noted that the standardization and unification of terminology are key factors in ensuring accuracy and efficiency in communication within the oil and gas industry. According to Russian scholars Samigullina L. and Samigullina E.: “The development of terminology standards consists of the following stages:

- studying the terminology of a specific subject area to determine its actual usage;
- developing a system of concepts and corresponding terms – a logical system of knowledge within this subject area;
- officially introducing the system of terms by an authoritative group of experts with high competence in this field of science or industry, who have the relevant authority as a standardization organization.

The final stage of organizing terms within a terminological system is compiling it into a standard-

ized dictionary” (Samigullina L., Samigullina E., 2018). In our view, the creation of various types of dictionaries is an essential task in the field of terminology and its more specific branch – terminography, which focuses on developing multifunctional databases that serve as both an informational resource and a tool for representing a specific terminological domain. This, in turn, helps clarify the characteristics of terms as objects, considering their position within the terminological system and their national-cultural specificity. Additionally, the development and maintenance of electronic resources with up-to-date terminology will ensure quick access to standards and their updates, thereby promoting the unification and standardization of terminology.

Thus, overcoming the challenges of translating and adapting oil and gas terminology requires a combination of linguistic research, the development of specialized dictionaries, and the application of international standards, which will ensure the accuracy and uniformity of industry-specific vocabulary.

Conclusion

The study identified the key features of oil and gas terminology in the Chinese language, its development in the context of globalization, and the influence of English-language discourse. The analysis showed that a significant portion of terms is borrowed or adapted from English and also undergoes calquing. This is due to China’s need to integrate into the global economic system and its active participation in international energy projects.

Main conclusions drawn from the study:

The influence of English-language discourse – the dominance of English in international scientific and technical publications contributes to

the borrowing of terminology, leading to the emergence of hybrid forms in Chinese oil and gas discourse.

Translation and adaptation challenges – the complexity of translation is due to the lack of direct equivalents, differences in term structures, and the specifics of technological processes. In some cases, transliteration or descriptive constructions are used.

Standardization and unification – the development of bilingual glossaries, the creation of international terminological standards, and the expansion of electronic databases help eliminate barriers in interlingual communication.

This study expands the understanding of the mechanisms of industry-specific terminology formation in the Chinese language, identifying linguistic and sociocultural factors in its development. It also highlights translation challenges and the need for term unification to ensure accuracy in intercultural communication.

Based on the analysis conducted, further research is advisable in the following areas: developing methods for automated translation of oil and gas terminology from Chinese, taking into account industry specifics; examining the dynamics of borrowing and its impact on terminology in relation to technological innovations and international cooperation; conducting a comparative analysis of Chinese oil and gas terminology with its counterparts in other Asian languages (Japanese, Korean) to identify universal trends in the development of technical vocabulary.

Thus, oil and gas discourse in the Chinese language continues to evolve under the influence of global processes. Issues of standardization, translation, and terminology adaptation remain relevant and require further research in linguistics and technical communication.

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