

## Examples of enantiosemy in the Polish-Italian medical discourse – signification and meaning of expression.

Keywords: enantiosemy medical discourse signification meaning equivalence

Precision and monoreferentiality are among the pragmatic criteria specifying the functions and features of language. When striving to precisely translate documentation, a translator, obliged to adhere not only to formal requirements but also the law, encounters difficulties of semantic nature. In the area of medicine, where even a spelling mistake may contribute to the worsening of the patient's condition, the author of the translation has to choose an equivalent which meets the requirements that follow specific assumptions and embedded in a precise context. At the same time, some terms and expressions in Italian medical language have features which go against particular rules. Those responsible for the translation are also faced (though rather rarely, given the nature of specialist language) with the problems concerning meaning i.e. *signification*, that is *definition*, and *sense* as an actual understanding of specialist content. The first concept is objective and devoid of the influence of external factors (subjective, psychological), and does not leave room for interpretation (Coseriu 1997; Frege 1982: 32-35). The other concept allows for a possibility to consider the meaning of a linguistic element in a variety of contexts (Mill 1962: 297). *Enantiosemy*, as a special case of polysemy, constitutes an example of a relation between *meaning* and *sense* of the utterance; leaves room for analysis and factors in context. Such conceptual complexity is illustrated by the examples from Italian, e.g. *crisi* 1) *crisi della lattazione* meaning 'low milk supply', 2) *crisi risolutiva* meaning 'disappearance of acute disease symptoms; *metastasi* 1) *riproduzione dei processi morbosi*, 2) *la formazione tumorale che si è riprodotta* meaning 'disease relapse' vs 'metastasis', *neoplasia* 1) *tumore (se non maligno)*, 2) *cancro (se maligno)* meaning 'neoplasm, tumour' vs 'carcinoma, cancer'. Assuming that the main goal of translation is to make the message in target language congruent with the elements of source language, the above-given examples may impede communication and ultimately lead to serious consequences. The complexity of such lexical/terminological solutions is possible thanks to consultation (opinions and advice) with doctors and medical staff. This study is based on the material available on the website [corrieredellasera.it](http://corrieredellasera.it), in the section Medicine and health. Disease entities were checked against the ICD-10 classification. The discussion of the examples will follow the division proposed by Lepschy (1981) and the criteria proposed by the present author. The expressions presented above depend, therefore, on the context and knowing the context allows one to transfer the meaning into the translated document. The research question concerns the choice of accurate equivalent. The considerations proposed deal with imprecision of some expressions belonging to specialised language which, by definition, does not accept terminological imprecision.

Coseriu Eugenio, 1997, *Sistema, norma e parole. Teoria del linguaggio e linguistica generale: sette studi*. Bari: Laterza, pp. 19-103.

Frege 1982, *Senso e significato. Senso, funzione e concetto. Scritti filosofici 1891-1897*. Bari: Laterza.

Lepschy Giulio, 1981, *Enantiosemy and Irony in Italian Lexis*, in *The Italianist 1*, London: Money Publishing

Mill John Stuart, 1962, *System logiki dedukcyjnej i indukcyjnej*. Warszawa: PWN.