

THE METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY IN THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This article is dedicated to the methodology of teaching medical terms in the German language, addressing key aspects necessary for the effective assimilation of medical vocabulary by students. The work analyzes the basics of medical terminology, particularly the role of Latin and Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes in the formation of medical words. It also discusses the use of visual materials, such as anatomical maps and images, to enhance the perception of terms. The article emphasizes the importance of applying terms in the context of real clinical situations and examples, which helps students not only memorize words but also understand their practical use. The conclusion highlights the significance of regular repetition and testing of the material, which contributes to the long-term retention of terms and improves the quality of learning.

Keywords: Teaching methods, medical terms, German language, Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes, anatomy, diagnostics, treatment.

Introduction

Teaching medical terminology in the German language is a key aspect of the education of students in medical universities and other educational institutions specializing in training professionals in the healthcare field. Medicine is an area where accuracy and proficiency in the use of terms play a decisive role, and knowledge of specific terminology in German becomes an important element of successful professional activity. The German language has its own specifics, and teaching medical terms requires attention not only to the correct memorization of words but also to the ability to effectively use them in real medical practice. For effective and productive teaching, it is necessary to understand the structure of medical vocabulary, employ various teaching methods, and actively incorporate modern technologies and interactive approaches into the educational process. This article discusses the main methodological approaches and strategies that will help educators successfully teach medical terminology in German.

Teaching medical terminology in German is an important and responsible process that requires not only knowledge of specific vocabulary but also the ability to effectively convey the material to students. Medical German includes many specialized terms that can be difficult to

understand, especially for those who are not native speakers. For learning to be effective and understandable, several key aspects must be taken into account.

1. Basics of Medical Vocabulary

Before starting the teaching of medical terms, it is important to explain to students the basic principles of forming medical words in German. Medicine often uses terms consisting of Latin or Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes. For example, the word "Hypertonie" (hypertension) consists of the prefix "hyper-" (increased) and the root "-tonie" (pressure). Understanding these basics helps students better comprehend new terms.

2. Grouping Terms by Themes

To learn medical terminology more effectively, it is useful to group terms by themes. This allows students to see connections between terms and remember them faster. For example, vocabulary can be divided into the following groups:

- **Anatomy:** terms for body parts, organs, and systems (e.g., Herz – heart, Lunge – lung, Leber – liver).
- **Diagnosis and Treatment:** terms related to diagnostic methods and medical procedures (e.g., Röntgen – X-ray, Operation – surgery, Therapie – therapy).

Example from the field of diagnostics:

- **Task:** Teaching terminology related to diagnostic methods.
- **Terms:**
 - Röntgen – X-ray
 - Ultraschall – ultrasound
 - Bluttest – blood test
 - CT (Computertomografie) – computed tomography

Method:

The instructor can use slides with images, such as an X-ray or ultrasound image, and ask students to identify which terms correspond to the shown methods. A role-playing activity can also be organized where one student plays the role of the doctor and the other as the patient, discussing the results of a diagnosis.

Example used in a sentence:

- "Der Röntgen-Bilder zeigt einen Bruch im Arm." (The X-ray shows a fracture in the arm.)
- "Die Ärztin hat einen Ultraschall gemacht, um die Krankheit zu diagnostizieren." (The doctor did an ultrasound to diagnose the disease.)
- **Diseases and Disorders:** terms describing diseases (e.g., Diabetes – diabetes, Grippe – flu, Asthma – asthma).

Each of these categories requires a separate approach to teaching, as well as the use of relevant examples and context.



3. Using Pictures and Visual Materials

Medical vocabulary is often difficult to grasp without visual materials, as many terms relate to body parts or internal organs. Using anatomical charts, diagrams, and images helps students visualize terms, making it easier to remember and understand them. For example, an image of the human body can be used to point out various organs and their names in German.

4. Applying in Context

It is very important that students not only memorize terms but also learn to apply them in context. The instructor can use clinical situations or examples from practice to show how medical terms are used in real life. For example:

- **Example 1:** "Der Patient leidet an einer schweren Lungenentzündung." (The patient is suffering from severe pneumonia.)
- **Example 2:** "Die Diagnose des Arztes lautet Herzinfarkt." (The doctor's diagnosis is a heart attack.)

This approach helps students not only learn the words but also better absorb them, understanding their use in real-life situations.

5. Using Interactive Methods

To make the learning process more dynamic and engaging, various interactive methods can be used:

- **Role-playing:** Students can act out scenarios in which they need to use medical terminology. For example, one student can play the role of the patient, and the other – the doctor, describing the symptoms of the illness in German.
- **Group discussions:** Students can work in groups to discuss specific medical topics and use the corresponding terms.
- **Memory games:** Flashcards with images and terms, crosswords, or quizzes can make the learning process more fun and productive.

6. Emphasis on Pronunciation

Teaching medical terms in German requires special attention to correct pronunciation. Some medical terms may be difficult to pronounce, especially for those unfamiliar with the peculiarities of the German language. Regular pronunciation exercises will help students avoid mistakes and sound confident when using medical vocabulary.

7. Using Specialized Textbooks and Materials

There are many textbooks and online resources specifically designed for learning medical vocabulary in German. Educators can use such materials to create structured and informative lessons. Textbooks like "Medizinische Terminologie" or specialized online courses will help students deepen their knowledge and expand their vocabulary.

8. Regular Review and Testing

For medical vocabulary to stick in students' memory, it is important to regularly review the material and conduct tests. This can include both written exams and oral tasks that allow the teacher to assess the students' understanding of the terms. Practice shows that repetition and active use of terms significantly increase the chances of long-term retention.

Conclusion

Teaching medical terminology in German is a multifaceted and complex process that requires a creative approach and the use of various methods. It is important not only to transfer knowledge but also to make the learning process interesting and accessible for students. Using visual materials, contextual examples, interactive methods, and regular reviews helps create a strong foundation for effectively mastering medical vocabulary.

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