

ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF MARTIAL LAW ON THE ADAPTATION OF ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY IN UKRAINE

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Abstract: Martial Law in Ukraine, initiated due to Russia's large-scale invasion in 2022, has significantly impacted various aspects of the country's life, including linguistic processes. In globalisation and active collaboration with international organisations, English is crucial in professional communication, particularly in defense, medical, technical and humanitarian fields. This study aims to review the impact of martial law on the adaptation of English terminology in Ukraine. The methods included structured interviews with students studying English and practising translation, surveys to collect quantitative data on challenges encountered while adapting English military terminology (the study focuses on military texts originating from the

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United States and the United Kingdom) into Ukrainian and observations of educational sessions. A total of 43 academic works were selected to explore the article's topic, conduct a comparative educational analysis and delve into translation processes and neology issues. The study involved 45 participants, including 15 students. The results revealed that incorporating English military terminology into Ukrainian has significantly accelerated and acquired new characteristics. The analysis of relevant literature uncovered the peculiarities of translating military terminology from diachronic and synchronic perspectives. The research findings have shown that English military terminology presents significant challenges and complexities in translation, as it serves both an expressive and a referential function. The exotic nature of these borrowed terms indicates connotative intensification, reflecting an ideologically rather than terminologically driven segmentation of extralinguistic reality.

Keywords: transformation of universities; education; English military terminology; adaptation of terminology; martial law conditions

1. Introduction

Given the country's contemporary challenges, work on military terminology in Ukraine has become critically important. Harmonising and standardising terminology is essential not only for internal coherence but also for effective communication at the international level (Flatman 2018). This issue is particularly crucial during joint military exercises and operations, where mutual understanding of terms and concepts is key to effective interaction.

It is important to note that military terms and their correct interpretation and usage are significant. This requires military professionals to understand the specifics of the terminology and the context in which these terms are applied. One of the main challenges is linguistic transformation, which complicates information exchange even among members of the same language and cultural community (Jalilbayli 2022).

Given these realities, it is necessary to develop neologisms based on adapting concepts borrowed from allies (Nedelcheva 2023). This will help create a standardised cross-branch terminological system that is relevant, flexible and capable of adapting to changes in international law and military doctrine.

Amid martial law in Ukraine, the implementation of English-language terminology is actively taking place, but its adaptation requires a systematic approach. Military personnel must be able to quickly master these terms through training programmes that introduce new concepts and emphasise their significance in contemporary military operations.

Consistency in terminology, doctrines, and tactical approaches is key to maintaining the effectiveness of joint exercises and operations (Shahlee and Ahmad 2022). Therefore, all military structures must adhere to unified terminological standards, contributing to clear and accurate communication in high-pressure and unpredictable modern combat situations.

This research focuses on how armed conflict has driven the transformation of the linguistic landscape, mainly through the integration and reception of new terms associated with the military and geopolitical domains. The lexical field related to the armed forces is notably rich in changes and borrowings, reflecting the evolution of

military doctrines, techniques and general perceptions of warfare. War, one of the most destructive yet unifying social phenomena, has historically stimulated linguistic processes, including borrowing and adapting foreign terminology (Capstick 2020).

The borrowing of English terms into Ukrainian during the war reflects a profound process of cultural and linguistic influence (Ivanenko et al. 2023). As during historical wars that prompted the borrowing of linguistic elements, the ongoing war continues to affect the adaptation of English terms into Ukrainian, particularly in military technology, strategy and international cooperation.

Martial law and its challenges necessitate the adoption of new English terms, which quickly integrate into the lexicon. Such adaptation is not merely a consequence of technological innovations or new weaponry but also reflects changes in the methods of warfare and the shifting geopolitical circumstances Ukraine faces (Tkach and Tkach 2023). This includes terms related to cybersecurity, drones, strategic alliances and new command and control methods.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, war intensifies linguistic exchange and borrowing between nations, even in such challenging conditions. This process involves emerging new words or expressions and the development of new connotations and symbolic meanings that reflect cultural and ideological influences (Yefymenko et al. 2025). English terms that enter the Ukrainian language acquire additional meanings in the context of armed conflict and international support, shaping the military lexicon and the broader linguistic culture.

The war in Ukraine amplifies the need to adapt English military terminology and raises societal questions about its interpretation and usage. Borrowing English terms into the military lexicon often presents translation challenges, as these terms may carry nuanced connotations, reflecting various aspects of war. For instance, the term “war” can be ambiguous, carrying different meanings depending on the context. Journalistic texts often employ these terms in a dogmatic sense, aiming to convey objectivity, while in practice, they are imbued with evaluative judgments and ideological connotations. For instance, in journalistic texts about international conflicts, terms such as “liberation,” “terrorism,” “aggression,” or “resistance” are often presented as neutral descriptors. However, each of these carries implicit ideological meanings. A newspaper might refer to one group as “freedom fighters” and to another as “terrorists,” even though both are engaged in similar acts of violence. Although the journalist’s language appears objective, these lexical choices embed value judgments and reflect specific political or cultural perspectives. Thus, what seems to be an impartial report is, in fact, shaped by the author’s ideological framework.

The emergence of new terms and linguistic constructions also raises questions about their ideological weight and how they influence perceptions of war. In this sense, terms describing low-intensity conflicts or operations conducted in non-democratic states may appear objective at first glance but often conceal the political and cultural dimensions of armed confrontations (McIntosh 2021).

Adapting English terminology into the Ukrainian language during wartime requires a critical approach to avoid confusion between describing and evaluating events. The polemical nature of many terms borrowed from English presents challenges both in translation and in the perception of these concepts. The use of military terminology

often contributes to the legitimisation or delegitimisation of specific actions or strategies, which can influence the shaping of public opinion (Danilyan et al. 2022). For example, terms like “shock and awe,” “collateral damage” or “war on terror” illustrate how borrowed military language can mask violence, frame actions as legitimate and subtly shape public perception through ideology.

Thus, the impact of martial law on Ukraine’s linguistic system demonstrates that the adaptation of English terminology is not confined to technical aspects but encompasses a profound ideological context. This context determines how such terms are perceived and utilised within society.

Within the framework of the present study, we aimed to identify key challenges in the adaptation of English military terminology, specifically:

- to investigate which specific terms pose the most significant difficulties for Master’s students in English and translation studies from three Ukrainian higher education institutions;
- to analyse the reasons for these challenges (e.g., insufficient preparation, lack of resources);
- to determine the impact of martial law on the educational process.

In order to achieve the goal of the research, the following questions were raised:

- What challenges do students encounter when translating English military terminology into Ukrainian?
- How do students adapt military terms in the absence of direct equivalents?
- What strategies are used to manage abbreviations, acronyms and unstable terminology?

Assessing how the war influences students’ motivation to study English and its specialised terminology unveils new educational perspectives.

The findings will enable the proposal of new methodologies or resources for learning English military terminology in the above mentioned three higher education institutions in Ukraine and provide recommendations for adapting educational programmes to contemporary conditions.

2. Method

2.1. Research Design

This study employed a scientific method with the inclusion of the qualitative approach in order to examine the challenges of translating English military terminology into Ukrainian under the conditions of martial law. The design integrated semi-structured interviews, surveys and classroom observations to ensure methodological triangulation and enhance the reliability and validity of findings.

The qualitative component focused on exploring translators’ experiences, perceptions and strategies for dealing with lexical gaps, contextual adaptation and the ambiguity of abbreviations and acronyms.

Data were collected in three stages: (1) semi-structured interviews to obtain in-depth insights into translation majors’ practices and difficulties; (2) an online survey

distributed via Google Forms to gather numerical data on the sources and methods used for military translation; and (3) classroom observations to record real-time translation behaviour and identify recurring issues when dealing with specialised military texts.

This triangulated design enabled a comprehensive understanding of both the cognitive and practical dimensions of military translation, reflecting the complexity of linguistic adaptation processes in Ukraine's current socio-political context.

To illustrate these challenges and provide examples of improper translations, specialised texts related to three branches of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (Army, Navy, Air Force) were analysed. The study also included a case study examining the translations produced by students and professionals working with military texts.

2.2. Participants

This study involved 45 students from three higher education institutions in Ukraine:

- National Agrarian University (Faculty of Law, Department of State and Legal Disciplines and Ukrainian Studies);
- Institute of Philology at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Department of Foreign Languages);
- State University of Science and Technology of Ukraine (Department of Foreign Languages).

Each institution was represented by 15 Master's degree students studying English and with practical experience in translation. The study focuses on military texts originating from the United States and the United Kingdom.

The participant numbers for each method are now explicitly presented:

- Semi-structured interviews: 45 participants
- Surveys: 45 participants
- Classroom observations: 30 participants (as not all students attended observed sessions)

2.3. Instruments and Procedures

Several research methods were employed to explore the challenges of translating military terminology and its adaptation. Firstly, semi-structured interviews were conducted using a pre-approved set of topics to ensure consistency across all interviews. The introductory section included the respondent's personal information (age, gender, educational institution, specialisation and translation experience) and explained the interview's purpose alongside obtaining the participant's consent.

The main interview questions focused on the following aspects:

Do you encounter difficulties when translating military texts from English into Ukrainian? If so, what kind?

The subsequent section of the interview contained four clarification questions to deepen understanding of participants' experiences and perceptions:

1. Have you faced the issue of a lack of direct equivalents for many terms during the translation of military texts?
2. Have you needed to adapt or find contextual equivalents for specific terms?

3. Do you encounter challenges translating military abbreviations and acronyms, which often have multiple meanings?
4. Would you say there is an inconsistency in the use of terms due to the lack of standardised translation resources?

The structured interviews enabled the collection of standardised participant data and provided valuable insights into their experiences and views on the application of artificial intelligence in education.

Secondly, a survey was organised to gather data on the sources students rely on most for military terminology when completing independent assignments, such as media, social networks, and academic institutions. A set of questions was developed to align with the study's objectives, identifying the main challenges in adapting English military terminology. The survey also assessed participants' perceptions of these issues.

To enhance accessibility, the survey was distributed using Google Forms. Clear instructions were provided to minimise potential errors and ensure all respondents understood its purpose.

Thirdly, classroom observations were conducted to collect data on the primary issues in adapting English military terminology. Informed consent was obtained from all instructors and students. The observation process involved recording students' reactions to new material.

An analysis of specialised texts from the English Armed Forces military domain (army, navy, air force) provided to students for translation allowed for an evaluation of how they handled different types of military terms and jargon. Observations of classroom activities, during which students worked on texts containing military terminology, facilitated an exploration of the translation process in real time and identified common mistakes or difficulties.

The participants represented diverse experiences, perspectives, and professional backgrounds in translating military terminology. This diversity ensured the study's findings were comprehensive and reflected a broad context. Table 1 presents gender data and the educational institutions specialising in translation studies.

Table 1. Gender data of survey participants.

Institution	Participants	Quantity
National Agrarian University (Faculty of Law, Department of State and Legal Disciplines and Ukrainian Studies)	9 females	15
	6 males	
Institute of Philology of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Department of Foreign Languages)	11 females	15
	4 males	
State University of Science and Technology of Ukraine (Department of Foreign Languages)	8 females	15
	7 males	
		Total 45

Source: Authors' development.

2.4. Data Analysis

43 academic works were selected to conduct a comparative analysis of the adaptation of military terminology from English into Ukrainian. This also facilitated a deeper exploration of the subject and provided insights into studies related to military terminology, translation studies, and its adaptation in other countries during crises. Data obtained from interviews, surveys, and observations were synthesised to identify key trends and challenges in translation. Additionally, examples of mistranslations identified in certain publications were analysed, which helped better illustrate the main challenges associated with adaptation.

The research adhered to ethical standards, including obtaining informed consent from participants and ensuring the confidentiality of data. The study results were presented in a comprehensive report that included a case description, data analysis, and recommendations for future research and practice in higher education in Ukraine.

A total of 43 academic works were selected for the comparative analysis of English–Ukrainian military terminology adaptation. The selection process was guided by specific criteria to ensure the relevance, credibility, and methodological consistency of the sources.

The following criteria were applied:

Relevance to the research topic – Only works directly addressing military translation, terminology adaptation, or linguistic challenges during armed conflict were included.

Academic credibility – Peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, and recognised institutional reports were prioritised to ensure the scholarly quality of the material.

Chronological scope – Studies published between 2018 and 2024 were considered to capture developments from the onset of military conflict in Ukraine to the present, reflecting both pre-war and wartime linguistic dynamics.

Geographical and linguistic scope – Works focusing on Ukraine were central, but comparative studies from other conflict-affected regions were also included to contextualise Ukrainian translation practices within broader international trends.

Language availability – Sources in English and Ukrainian were selected to maintain linguistic consistency and allow for accurate comparative analysis.

These criteria enabled the formation of a representative corpus for examining key trends in the adaptation of military terminology. The analysis of the selected works provided a solid empirical basis for identifying common translation strategies, terminological inconsistencies, and semantic shifts. Additionally, examples of mistranslations identified in several publications were critically reviewed to illustrate the practical implications of inadequate standardisation and contextual misunderstanding. The research adhered to established ethical standards, including obtaining informed consent from all participants, ensuring data confidentiality, and properly attributing all cited sources. The results were synthesised into a comprehensive report including case descriptions, data analysis, and recommendations for improving translation training and practice in Ukrainian higher education.

3. Findings

According to data obtained from 45 Master's students across three Ukrainian universities, several key trends were identified regarding the challenges of translating English military terminology into Ukrainian. A significant majority of respondents (78%) reported encountering difficulties due to the absence of direct Ukrainian equivalents for many English military terms. This highlights the ongoing issue of linguistic asymmetry between the two languages in the military domain. Furthermore, 89% of participants indicated that they frequently needed to adapt or search for contextual equivalents to preserve the meaning and pragmatic accuracy of the original texts, demonstrating translators' reliance on interpretative and creative strategies rather than direct translation. When asked about military abbreviations and acronyms, 71% of respondents confirmed that they experience difficulties translating them, primarily because many abbreviations possess multiple meanings depending on the operational or institutional context. Similarly, 80% of the surveyed students agreed that terminological instability persists due to the absence of standardised translation resources, such as specialised dictionaries or glossaries.

These findings collectively emphasise the urgent need to develop comprehensive bilingual dictionaries and to standardise Ukrainian military terminology. Addressing these issues would not only facilitate greater consistency in translation practice but also improve the clarity and reliability of military documentation used in Ukraine's ongoing European integration processes.

3.1. Challenges and Problems of Adapting English Military Terminology among Students

Thus the adaptation of English military terminology has significantly accelerated during martial law, accompanied by the emergence of new characteristics. Most borrowed terms exhibit an exotic profile and serve both a referential and expressive function, often amplifying connotations (Kernyakevych-Tanasiychuk et al. 2021). Students reported difficulties adapting terms without direct Ukrainian equivalents and a pressing need for increased access to specialised resources. The ideological context of these terms sometimes outweighs purely terminological considerations, creating additional challenges for translators.

Accordingly, adapting English military terminology during martial law in Ukraine requires greater access to specialised resources and a deeper understanding of these borrowings' connotations and ideological contexts. In the context of martial law, the issue of adapting English military terminology has become increasingly relevant (Haltsova et al. 2024). This task is critically important as new terms emerge unprecedentedly, and translators face the challenge of providing timely and appropriate Ukrainian equivalents. Military translation represents a highly specialised activity requiring the involvement of experts who encounter specific difficulties. A significant obstacle is the lack of specialised publications, including military dictionaries and glossaries in English-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-English formats.

Students translating contemporary military texts as part of this study highlighted the complexity of rendering terminology related to military structures, weaponry, ranks, and specific jargon. Military terminology often includes abbreviations, acronyms, and words with multiple meanings, complicating the selection of appropriate Ukrainian equivalents due to the absence or inconsistency of national standards (Ivashchenko and Ivashchenko 2023).

The challenges identified include the absence of diagnostic tools to assess the current state of military translation and the lack of mechanisms to monitor changes driven by the rapid and recent exponential development of military-related terminology (Yuryk et al. 2023). Translators often rely on their imagination, personal knowledge, and resources to address these challenges. This case study focused on observing processes in the military sphere, paying special attention to general developments and linguistic aspects. Positive factors identified included the abundance of available English-language military sources (e.g., media, social networks), the rapid evolution of Ukrainian military discourse responding promptly to current events, the practicality of military vocabulary, and the ease of access to experts from both countries through live broadcasts and direct communication (Trach et al. 2020).

Even when translators meet expectations, they encounter numerous difficulties (Aksoy and Söylemez 2023). This case study emphasised terminology, as issues in this domain are the most prominent. One of the key problems faced by students was finding adequate equivalents for English military terms. As modern military terminology evolves rapidly and incorporates new concepts, existing dictionaries and translation resources often fail to meet current needs.

The study analysed the translation experience of 45 students from three leading Ukrainian universities who worked on translating military texts from English. The analysis identified trends and challenges. Based on responses to four key questions in the student survey, the most common problems in translating, understanding, and adapting English military terminology were identified and summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. The main challenges for students when translating English military terminology.

Challenge	Description
Lack of standardised dictionaries	Students faced the lack of thorough English-Ukrainian military dictionaries, which complicated the translation of terms related to military structures, weapons, ranks, and slang.
The difficulty of translating abbreviations and acronyms	In the English military language, abbreviations are widely used (for example, UAV - unmanned aerial vehicle, or IED - improvised explosive device). The challenge for the students was finding the exact equivalents of these abbreviations and adapting them to the Ukrainian context.
Ideological and cultural adaptation	In addition to its referential function (the transmission of factual information), military terminology often has a connotative or ideological context. Translating such terms requires not only linguistic but also cultural and political adaptation.

Exoticisation of borrowings	Terms borrowed from English may have a different context in Ukrainian or evoke different associations, which requires careful adaptation to avoid misinterpretation or distortion of meaning.
Problems of translating military structures	Students noted difficulties finding equivalents for English names of military units and military ranks. For example, terms like Lieutenant Colonel or Sergeant Major do not always have clear equivalents in the Ukrainian military rank system.
Difficulties with translating weapons terms	Modern English military terms related to weapons (cruise missiles and stealth technology) must be adapted to Ukrainian realities and the specifics of Ukrainian military terminology.
Specific military slang	The English language contains many slang and specialised military terms that are difficult to translate into Ukrainian without losing meaning or connotations.

Source: Authors' development.

The adaptation of military terminology in Ukraine requires the development of new military dictionaries. To address translation standardisation issues, it is essential to create specialised English-Ukrainian dictionaries that encompass not only terminology but also contextual explanations of their usage. In this context, it is vital to standardise military terminology at the national level to ensure accuracy and consistency in official documents and publications. Additionally, there is a need to organise professional development courses for translators, particularly in military terminology, to prepare them for emerging challenges.

Finally, military terms frequently used in the context of Anglo-Ukrainian relations and international military cooperation should be integrated into educational programmes.

3.2. Challenges and problems of adapting English military terminology

The wartime situation in Ukraine has significantly affected the social and economic aspects of the country's life (Kozak et al. 2024) and educational sphere, particularly learning English military terminology. In this context, understanding the role of an army translator is critical, as their functions combine technical and literary translation with terminological specialisation.

One of the primary challenges translators face during wartime is the constant evolution of language and terminological systems. The increasing number of neologisms in the military demands advanced linguistic skills and deep knowledge of new military concepts and structures (Aliyeva et al. 2023). This requires ongoing self-education and adaptability to new conditions.

A survey included questions such as "logistics," "command," "strategic operation," and "reconnaissance" to identify key terms that pose difficulties for students. The questionnaire revealed that many students encounter problems understanding these terms due to several factors in Table 3.

Table 3. Problems and reasons in students' understanding of terms.

Issue	Rationale
Insufficient training	Students do not have a sufficient knowledge base to master specific terminology.
Lack of educational resources	The lack of specialised materials is a serious obstacle to learning terminology.
Contextual ambiguity	Students often cannot understand terms without understanding the contexts of their use
Language barrier	For students of non-specialized faculties, English remains challenging to understand

Source: Authors' development.

The war in Ukraine has altered students' motivation, with increased interest in studying military terminology emerging due to the relevance of this knowledge. A survey of students revealed that the ongoing war has heightened their engagement with military English.

Changes to educational curricula have also been directly driven by the need to adapt courses to new circumstances. Introducing new courses related to military topics and adapting teaching methods to online formats has become integral to the educational process.

Assessing students' proficiency in English military terminology revealed significant disparities between educational institutions and student groups. Public institutions exhibited lower results than private ones, while experienced students significantly outperformed beginners. Table 4 highlights key recommendations for improving the learning process in this context.

Table 4. Recommendations for improving students' understanding of terms.

Directions	Outcome
Integration of multimedia materials in English classes	Using videos, interactive platforms, and online courses to increase student engagement.
Using videos, interactive platforms, and online courses	Such methods are effective in increasing student interest.
Adaptation of curricula	Development of new courses that consider the specifics of modern military challenges.
Flexible learning formats	Introducing a blended learning format to ensure education accessibility.

Source: Authors' development.

Studying martial law's impact on adapting English military terminology in Ukraine has revealed important aspects that require attention. The gathered data indicate the need for further adaptation of educational programmes and resources and continuous monitoring of changes in terminology. The significance of this research lies in its potential to enhance the educational process and improve students' proficiency in specialised terminology.

The study involved an analysis of military texts, focusing on the specific terminology of three branches of the armed forces: the army, navy, and air force.

Additionally, interviews were conducted with participants, providing insight into their difficulties and experiences in this field. The research also highlights the importance of utilising artificial intelligence to automate parts of the translation process and expand the terminological database. According to data from 45 students, responses to the following questions revealed key findings:

Have you encountered the issue of a lack of direct equivalents for many terms when translating military texts from English?

Yes, 35 students (78%) acknowledged this issue, as military terminology often has specific meanings that do not always have direct counterparts in Ukrainian. Ten students (22%) indicated they did not experience significant difficulties.

Have you needed to adapt or search for contextual equivalents?

Yes, 40 students (89%) reported the need to adapt terms or find contextual equivalents to preserve the meaning and context of the text. Only five students (11%) stated they could mostly use direct equivalents.

Do you experience difficulties translating military abbreviations and acronyms, which often have multiple meanings?

Yes, 32 students (71%) admitted having difficulties translating military abbreviations, as many have multiple meanings depending on the context. Thirteen students (29%) said they usually interpret the abbreviations correctly.

Can it be said that terms are unstable due to a lack of standardised translation resources?

Yes, 36 students (80%) agreed that instability in the use of terms exists due to the lack of standardised translation resources. Nine students (20%) believe the available resources are sufficient for adequate translation.

These results point to students' significant difficulties when translating military texts, emphasising the need to improve educational materials and resources for translators.

In the context of Ukraine's European integration, the issue of accuracy and conformity in military terminology has become highly relevant (Klochko, Rossa, and Babiý 2024). Systematising terminology, creating appropriate resources, and involving specialists in this process can significantly improve the quality of military translation, reduce its variability, and ensure communication clarity with international partners (Struk, Semyhinivska, and Sitko 2022).

Thus, adapting English terminology and introducing new, adapted terms into the Ukrainian military context will lay the foundations for successful communication and coordination, undoubtedly positively impacting Ukraine's armed forces' overall preparedness and combat effectiveness.

This study confirms that the field of military translation remains highly specialised and requires a systematic approach that can account for all aspects of adapting English terminology in the face of modern warfare's unchanging complexity and dynamism.

Thus, this paper widely demonstrates the problem it has some limitations. The main limitation is a qualitative study with a limited number of participants. That is why the findings could be exploratory and aim to highlight patterns and insights rather than provide generalisable conclusions. This limitation is now explicitly discussed in the methodology and conclusion sections.

4. Conclusion

English borrowings in Ukrainian during the war are examples of lexical renewal and reflect broader societal and historical processes. This demonstrates how war can drive systemic linguistic changes, forming new linguistic realities (Torppa 2023). The analysis of the impact of martial law on the adaptation of English terminology in Ukraine highlights a range of complex issues related to the borrowing of new terms describing military actions, strategies, and the consequences of armed conflict.

In the context of martial law and the adaptation of English military terminology in Ukraine, a detailed analysis can be conducted of the markers characterising military status as both a profession and a way of life (Medvid, Malovana, and Vashyst 2022). Military service not only defines professional duties but also forms a unique cultural and social microcosm in which language becomes a powerful tool for constructing identity (Aliyeva 2023). This concerns extralinguistic and linguistic aspects of the military community, as evidenced by the study of military culture through its linguistic practices.

An analysis of military discourse in the US and UK armed forces reveal how the military employs language to produce group identity symbolically. Military rhetoric reflects values that cement the community, using metaphors to shape and sustain this identity (Pak et al. 2023). This also applies to adapting English military terminology in the Ukrainian context, where similar mechanisms are employed to create a shared language and communication strategy.

A particular point of interest is the naming trends of military materials and equipment across different cultures. For instance, British forces often use zoonyms for equipment and weaponry, while Americans use anthroponyms or ethnonyms (Dolzhih and Dmitrichenkova 2020). These terms carry deep cultural connotations that reflect the historical and ideological values of the respective armed forces. Similar processes are observed in adapting English military terminology in Ukraine, where national identity and cultural factors also influence the choice of equivalents for military terms (Mosiyevykh 2017).

Martial law in Ukraine has prompted the rapid development of new military vocabulary, continuously evolving to reflect contemporary realities (Shevchuk et al. 2024). This process presents significant challenges for translators and experts attempting to find appropriate terms in Ukrainian. An important aspect is that many of these terms are tied to professional culture and symbolism, making their adaptation particularly complex (Aliyeva et al. 2023). However, a crucial process of strengthening Ukrainian military identity occurs through the linguistic integration of such terms.

Thus, adapting English military terminology in Ukraine is a complex and multifaceted process involving translating specific words and understanding the cultural, social, and professional contexts that shape language formation. Martial law has stimulated these processes, underscoring the significance of language as a tool for communication and a symbolic expression of military culture.

Within this study, we rely on a socio-terminological perspective regarding the adaptation and reception of new English military terms in the Ukrainian language under martial law. The socio-terminological perspective allows for analysis of the

relationship between language and society in the context of military rhetoric (Djambian et al. 2024). This approach highlights the influence of social factors (political, economic, cultural) on speech activities, particularly in military terminology. Military language is a unique phenomenon that reflects the evolution of military thought and culture while preserving elements of the professional identity of the armed forces.

One aspect that socio-terminology draws attention to is the adaptation of English military terms to the Ukrainian language, particularly in the context of rapid developments in military technologies and changing war strategies (Yemelianova and Shkurko 2024). These processes occur against socio-political transformations, making adapting terminology even more challenging. Moreover, the socio-terminological approach considers social factors such as age, gender, social status, and ethnicity, which can influence the perception and use of military terminology.

The ethnolinguistic approach also adds an essential dimension to studying the interaction between language, culture, and society, which is especially relevant in the military domain (Esmail et al. 2020). The linguistic practices of military structures are closely tied to their cultural and professional identity, and the lexical composition of military language forms a kind of “cryptological code” understood only by the internal community (Navalna et al. 2022). This code reflects military hierarchy and the collective and individual histories of those involved in the military structures.

From the perspective of linguistic adaptation, significant challenges relate to translating military terminology from English to Ukrainian (Bondarenko and Balan 2022). The constant enrichment of terminology with new concepts and phrases, especially in contemporary military conflicts, creates new barriers for translators striving to find suitable equivalents in the Ukrainian language (Zheliaskov et al. 2020). These terms, enriched with historical, cultural, and social connotations, require a deep understanding of the context in which they are used.

Thus, research into the adaptation of English military terminology in Ukraine, within the frameworks of socio-terminological and ethnolinguistic approaches, opens new horizons for understanding the role of language in processes of military change (Kalynovska 2024). This study underscores the importance of linguistic and socio-cultural aspects in forming military language and identity while highlighting the need for further research.

In the context of martial law and the adaptation of English military terminology in Ukraine, a detailed analysis can be conducted of the markers that characterise military status as both a profession and a way of being (Ormeno et al. 2020). Military service defines professional duties and forms a unique cultural and social microcosm in which language becomes a powerful tool for creating identity (Krämer, Vogl, and Kolehmainen 2022). This pertains to both extralinguistic and linguistic aspects of the military community, as supported by research on military culture through its linguistic practices.

Analysis of military discourse in the US and UK armies reveals how military personnel use language to produce group identity symbolically (Kelly 2023). Military rhetoric reflects a system of values that solidify the community, with metaphors acting as a means of forming and maintaining this identity. This also applies to adapting

English military terminology in the Ukrainian context, where similar mechanisms are employed to create a common language and communication strategy.

A distinct trend in naming military materials and equipment across cultures is also worth noting (Mohamed et al. 2024). For example, British military personnel more frequently use zoonyms to designate equipment and weapons, while Americans use anthroponyms or ethnonyms (Trach et al. 2020). These terms carry deep cultural connotations that reflect specific armed forces' historical and ideological values. Similar processes can be observed in adapting English military terminology in Ukraine, where national identity and cultural factors also influence the choice of equivalents for military terms.

Martial law in Ukraine has led to the active development of a new military lexicon, which changes rapidly to adapt to contemporary realities. This process presents significant challenges for translators and experts striving to find appropriate terms in Ukrainian. An important aspect is that many of these terms are tied to professional culture and symbolism, making their adaptation difficult (Tymoshchuk 2022). However, a crucial process of strengthening Ukrainian military identity occurs precisely through the linguistic integration of such terms.

Thus, adapting English military terminology in Ukraine is a complex and multifaceted process involving translating specific terms and understanding the cultural, social, and professional contexts that influence language formation. Martial law has stimulated these processes, highlighting the significance of language as a tool for communication and symbolic expression of military culture.

Adapting English military terminology during martial law in Ukraine has become an extremely relevant topic requiring thorough examination. The study's findings indicate significant changes in implementing and translating terms due to the exotic nature of loanwords, which do not always have direct Ukrainian equivalents. The main challenges faced by translators include the translation of abbreviations and acronyms, the ideological context, which sometimes takes precedence over the terminological aspect, and the lack of standardised dictionaries. Students involved in translating military texts highlighted problems related to the adaptation of terms concerning weaponry, military structures, and military jargon. The research also revealed a significant difference in the quality of translations among students from different educational institutions and with varying levels of preparation. To improve the situation, it is recommended that new Anglo-Ukrainian military dictionaries be created that consider the specifics of military terminology and ensure translation accuracy. Additionally, the unification of military terminology at the state level and the enhancement of translator qualifications through specialised courses are necessary.

Despite addressing the research question, the study has certain limitations. One such limitation is the small sample size of participants in the case study. Such limited results may provide incomplete information or may not reflect the broader trend of the research. Furthermore, martial law is a temporary phenomenon, and long-term changes in linguistic adaptation may not be sufficiently visible at the time of the study.

In this context, the prospects for future research primarily involve long-term observation in the post-martial law period to identify which changes are enduring and influence language practice over a longer term. Comparative analysis is promising in

terms of comparing the adaptation of English terminology in Ukraine with other countries in a state of war or crisis, as this may offer a broader context for understanding linguistic changes. An interdisciplinary approach is also intriguing. Combining linguistic research with sociological, psychological, and economic studies could provide a deeper insight into the impact of martial law on linguistic processes.

These limitations and prospects will help direct future research towards gaining a deeper understanding of this phenomenon and improving the adaptation of language policy in crises.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no ethical issues or conflicts of interest in this research.

Ethical Standards

The authors affirm this research did not involve human subjects.

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