

**Liliia Valeriivna Kharchuk**  
Department of Ukrainian Language  
Lviv Polytechnic National University

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31648/an.3641>

## TRANSLATION ERRORS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF INTERFERING INFLUENCES ON UKRAINIAN ELECTRIC POWER ENGINEERING TERMINOLOGY

**Key words:** term, terminology, Ukrainian electric power engineering terminology system, linguistic norm

Ukrainian electric power engineering terminology (UEPET) is an organically formed system of regulated terms that provides nominative means, which govern the electric power engineering industry. As a significant component of the standard national language, UEPET was developed in direct communication with the formation of electric power engineering as a science and is a kind of linguistic manifestation of formation and unification of the conceptual system of the corresponding detonate [Харчук 2017, 200]. The purpose of this research is to analyse typical errors in the translation of UEPET from Russian into Ukrainian arising from the source language interference.

Linguistic interference in UEPET and curtailing function frequencies of its measurement in sectorial and terminological discourse became apparent over a significant period – from 1933 to 1990 [Харчук 2017, 59]. The beginning of the 1930s, i.e., the period of the Russification course in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, caused, among others, the deportation of Ukrainian intellectuals, the deformation of the development of the Ukrainian language, and the stagnation of terminological formation. In a number of scientific works and periodicals, harsh criticism on the terminological dictionaries from the Ukrainian Institute of Scientific Language as well as accusations of the authors of nationalism and national sabotage arose. “A signal to the offensive” was the paper by Naum Kahanovych “Against ‘populism’ in linguistics (Where is

the Ukrainian language going?)”, included in the first issue of “The Marxist Flag” in 1930, which accused Ukrainian linguists of ethnographicism, the use of literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and folkloric materials for linguistic research [Шепех 1951, 358].

In 1933, a committee was organised under the direction of A. Khvyliya “for the verification of linguistic source” [Українська мова... 2005, 7]. Their task was to “cleanse the theoretical front of all nationalistic-bourgeois garbage and bring a true proletarian approach to the formation of Ukrainian academic terminology...” [Українська мова... 2005, 7]. A number of requirements were put forward to the supervising party bodies for terminological activity, namely: to stop immediately the publication of all dictionaries, to examine dictionaries and all terminology, and to unify technical terminology with Soviet terminology used in Ukraine, etc. [Українська мова... 2005, 10].

Specialized institutions were created to examine banned terminological dictionaries and change “nationalistic” terms to “national”. In terminological bulletins issued in 1934-1935, “the new conventions of Ukrainian terminology, which functioned specifically based on Ukrainian linguistics, were dubbed. As a result, a significant number of Ukrainian terms were “repressed”.

According to researchers, within the period of 1934-1935, the Ukrainian Institute of Linguistics removed approximately 14 500 terms [Кочерга 1994, 173; Перхач 1997, 10; Українська мова... 2005, 354]. This of course, included electric power engineering terminology. It must be noted that except for direct separation of Ukrainian terms and their alternative calques, intensive Russian assimilation was imposed. The authors of the monograph *Ukrainian language of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: A linguistic history* note: “The authorities planned the removal of the lexical framework and inner structure of the Ukrainian language, with the intent to parallel the Russian language and interrupt the integrity of Ukrainian in the 1920s, removing the elements integrated from the Western Ukrainian and Galician-Bukovynian dialects during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The commission’s findings and partisan resolutions stemming from political considerations ratified the influence of Polish on Western Ukrainian language, and all linguistic work of the 1920s was aimed at expanding the Ukrainian vocabulary in order to unite dialectal elements of all Ukrainian lands, among them Western Ukrainian was groundlessly declared Polanized” [Українська мова... 2005, 11].

As part of the partisan mandate in 1933, Russian was deemed a “brotherly” language, and linguists were ordered to take the Ukrainian part of a word and add “like sounding” and “equivalents” of Russian to all types of dictionaries. As a result, all distinctive Ukrainian vocabulary was deemed artificially created and seen as stemming from Polish. Moreover, the denunciation of terminologists and the implementation of penalties became the ominous political landscape [Українська мова... 2005, 12].

The findings of the terminological commission of 1933-1934 remained pertinent throughout the Soviet period.

The aforementioned factors led to the liquidation of traditional academic creation and normalisation of УЕПЕТ. The Ukrainian terminological fund actively started to establish and approve УЕПЕТ that paralleled the Russian variants.

The analysis of the researched terminology made it possible to detect a significant number of terms irrelevant to the Ukrainian language regarding УЕПЕТ, which appears to be caused by prolonged Russification. L. Polyuha asserts that the cause of the unstable development of Ukrainian terminology and terminography lies in the fact that unfortunately, Ukrainian terminology was and remains dependent on the Russian terminological basis, eliciting the practice of bilingualism [Полюга 2002, 22].

We will provide a typology that arise in the process of translating academic and technical texts in the area of electric power engineering from Russian into Ukrainian. The study is grouped around key errors that are permanently encountered, specifically lexical violations of translation norms, and lexical violations in normative translation.

## 1. Lexical violations of translation norms

In our previous research we discussed translation errors of УЕПЕТ such as *electrical transmission* (*електропересилання*), *power transmission line* (*лінія електропересилання*), which were literally translated from Russian and calqued in Ukrainian to become *електропередача*, *лінія електропередачі* [Харчук 2013; 2014, 62]. Since in Ukrainian “передавати щось на місці”, i.e., to transfer something in *place* (*передача* in Russian) – *передавання*, *передача* (*transfer, transmission*), but “передавати на відстані” (*transmit at a distance*) – *пересилання*, *пересильня* we recommend translating the Russian terms *линии электропередачи*, *электропередача* to Ukrainian as *лінії електропересилання*, *електропересилання*. One of the authoritative lexicographic sources, particularly the *Russian-Ukrainian Dictionary of Technical Terminology*, states that the Russian *электропередача* (*electric transmission*) has only *електропересилання* as a Ukrainian correspondent, and also the fixed term *лінія пересилання* (*forwarding line*), *лінія пересилання енергії* (*energy transmission line*) (or *пересильня*), *лінія електропересилання* (*power transmission line*) [Перхач 1997, 152]. It should be noted that in specialised literature today, both terms *лінія електропередачі* and *лінія електропересилання* are appropriate.

A similar situation has arisen regarding the term *надземна лінія* (*ground line*), which translates from Russian as *повітряна лінія* (*airline*) (Russian *воздушная линия*). In the *Academic Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language*, the adjective *повітряний* is presented only with the following definitions: 1) adjective of *повітря*; which consists of air, concerned with, or filled with air; 2) which is, located, lives, mixed with air; which happens in the air, in the atmosphere; 3) which works, happens in motion with the help of air; 4) connected with aeronautics, aviation [*Словник... 1970-1980*, Т. 6, 678]. However, the noun *надземний* in Ukrainian is defined as 1) placed on the surface of the earth; 2) that which is found outside the earth, in space; celestial [*Словник... 1970-1980*, Т. 6, 66]. Since transmission lines are located on the surface of the earth (on the ground), in space, it would not be worth translating the Russian term *воздушная линия* as *повітряна лінія* literally, namely as the Ukrainian term *надземна лінія*, as it is defined in official dictionaries [Перхач 1997, 311]. The term *повітряна лінія* should only be translated from Russian in aviation terminology referring to the definition “flight route between agreed points for air transport”.

Research shows that at one time many Russian lexemes surpassed the boundaries of industry terminology and became part of general vocabulary. Within the margins of specialized vocabulary, Ukrainian academics did not perceive these terms as Russianisms, even though a few of these words exist as national or borrowed words in Ukrainian. For example, the semantically formed calque *насос* (*pump*) and the root *сос-* are absent in modern Ukrainian thanks to successful recommendations of terminologists, was replaced with the Latin-based *помпа* (*pump*), from which the names of related concepts are derived: *помпувати* (to *pump*), *помпування* (*pumping*), *напомпувати*, etc. As a general name for liquid pressure displacement devices, only the term “*помпа*” satisfies all of the terminological requirements of the ДСТУ (National Standards of Ukraine) 3966-2000 *Terminology. Principles and Rules for the Development of Terminological Standards and Definition of Concepts*.

The term *помпа* has been restored to active use in various branches of expertise, as demonstrated by its use in Ukrainian academic research, professional publications and establishment in modern professional terminology. Thus, in the process of translation of academic and technical texts from Russian to Ukrainian, it should be taken into consideration that the Russian term *насос* is equivalent to the Ukrainian *помпа*.

## 2. Lexical violations in normative translation

In electric power engineering terminology, there is a large quantity of terminological qualitative phrases, the core word of which the term *розподільний* (*distributive*) and *розподільчий* (*distributing*) (*device, substation, point, structure, network, line, bus line, conductor, shield, agreement, etc.*). Their parallel use is also observed in professional literature.

The *Academic Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language* defines the adjective *розподільний* as “which serves for distribution, associated with the distribution of something” [Словник... 1970-1980, Т. 8, 774]; the lexeme *розподільчий* is indicated as the remark *рідко* (*rarely*). In the “Golden Decades” dictionaries, the synonym of *розподільний* presents *розподільчий* as the only resulting correspondent of the Russian *распределительный* (*distributive*). In the *Russian-Ukrainian Dictionary of Technical Terminology*, the Ukrainian equivalent of the Russian lexeme *распределяемый* (*distributable*), *распределяющийся* is *розподільний*. It should be noted that the suffix *-ч-* in Ukrainian forms a higher degree of comparison of adjectives; substantive adjectives containing this suffix have the meaning “to refer to that which is called a noun”; but verbal adjectives with this suffix indicate the intended purpose or the ability to perform that which the verb indicates. Thus, translators are advised to distinguish between the common adjectives *розподільний* and *розподільчий* and use them in accordance their proper meanings, specifically to indicate their purpose or their ability to distribute something (Russian *распределительный*). They should use the Ukrainian verbal adjective *розподільчий*; we propose the adjective *розподільний* be used for the Russian equivalent of *распределяемый, распределяющийся*.

Analysis of academic and technical texts translated into Ukrainian from Russian determined that translators often use participles ending in *-уч(ий)* and *-юч(ий)*, which is not intrinsic to the Ukrainian language. It is observed that active participles ending in *-уч(ий)* and *-юч(ий)* are calques of the Old Slavonic *-щ(ий)*. In the opinion of I. Farion, “the distinguishing characteristic of these borrowed Russian terms is the overwhelming emphasis on verbiage, that is, procedurality. Yet Ukrainian rarely needs this verbiage...” [Фаріон 2010, 90]. O. Kurylo observes “the Ukrainian language does not use active participles with the *-чий* and *-(в)ший* suffixes, nor the passive *-мий* for those particular functions, in relation to those used in modern Ukrainian” [Куріло 2008, 18]. The occurrence of active participles in modern Ukrainian speech is caused by Russian lexeme calques, which led to their prevalence in electric engineering terminology – a definite a fault of translators.

Linguists have long agreed on ways of translating active participle forms into Ukrainian. These forms should be translated by descriptive substructures, adjectives, nouns, passive participles, etc. Translators and professionals in

the electric power industry should take the advice of linguists and draw their attention to the translation of such terms.

Active Russian participles ending in **-щий** in terminological combinations should be preferably translated as verbal adjectives to **-льный, -вальный, -льный, -ний** (**компенсирующий** – компенсувальний, **дифференцирующий** – диференціювальний, **заземляющий** – уземлюваний, **крепящий** – кріпильний, **нагревающий** – нагрівальний, **изолирующий** – ізолювальний, **поляризующий** – поляризувальний, **замыкающий** – замыкальний, **генерирующий** – генерувальний / витворювальний, **скользящий** – ковзальний / ковзний, **контактирующий** – контактувальний, **результатирующий** – результатний / результівний / вислідний, **действующий** – чинний / дієвий, **пульсирующий** – пульсивний / пульсувальний, **блуждающий** (ток) – блукальний / мандрівний (струм), **обслуживающий** – обслушний, etc.

It is advisable to translate Russian adjectives ending in **-щийся** in terminological phrase forms of **-ний** (**заземляющийся** – уземний, **возбуждающийся** – збудний, **изолирующийся** – ізолівний, **колеблющийся** – коливний, **выключающийся** – вимикний, **запускающийся** – запускний, etc.).

Russian passive participles ending in **-уемый** and **-имый** in the case of a participle should be translated into Ukrainian as **-овуемый (-уваний)**, in the case of an adjective as **-овный, -ний** (**компенсируемый** – компенсовуваний (participle), **компенсовный** (adjective); **изолируемый** – ізолювуваний (participle), **ізолюваний** (adjective); **выключаемый** – вимиканий (participle), **вимикний** (adjective); **поляризуемый** – поляризовуваний (participle), **поляризовный** (adjective), etc.).

Russian participles ending in **-нный** should be translated as the adjectival form of **-ний** (**компенсированный** – компенсований, **возбужденный** – збуджений, **коммутированный** – комутований, **изолированный** – ізолюваний, **поляризованный** – поляризований, etc.).

Russian active participles in the past tense ending in **-вший** should be translated using the descriptive construction (**включивший** – that (which) (у)вімкнув; **замкнувший** – that (which) замкнув; **изолировавший** – that (which) ізолював, etc.).

Some conceptual delineation of terms during translation of academic and technical texts into Ukrainian should be considered. The Russian **взвешенный** is translated as **змулений** (liquid form), **завислий** (gas form), **зважений** (on scales); **гамма** – **гамма** (Greek letter), **гама** (serial number of anything: colours, feelings, sounds); **емкость** – **ємність** (physical term), **місткість** (economic indicators), **посудина** (a vessel); **жесткость** – **жорсткість** (mechanical term), **твердость** (chemical term); **жидкий** – **рідкий** (liquid phase), **рідкий** (not thick); **металлический** – **металевий** (prepared from metal), **металічний** (inherent in metal); **напряжение** – **напряга** (electrical engineering term), **напряжения** (mechanical term);

*общий – загальний, спільний* (jointly used); *обратный – зворотний* (direction, side), *обернений* (mathematical term); *отрицательный – від’ємний* (mathematical term), *негативний* (physical and technical term); *положительный – додатний* (mathematical term), *позитивний* (physical and technical term); *соединение – з’єднання, сполучення, сполука* (chemical substance), *сполучення* (mathematical term); *степень – степенінь* (mathematical term), *міра* (measurement), *ступінь* (chemical and technical term); *теплоемкость – теплоємність* (physical term), *тепломісткість* (economic term); *электроемкость – електроємність* (physical term), *електромісткість* (economic term) [Тлумачний... 1999, 740-741].

As O. Kocherha states that “having access to materials of the Ukrainian Institute of Academic Language, seeing wealth, distinctiveness and a profound national basis of vocabulary, collected and developed by the most highly qualified specialists and connoisseurs of the most subtle language, striving to draw the benefits of those works into a modern terminological asset; the “new generation” of terminologists do not always take into account that six decades of language development cannot be neglected, however distorted that development. It cannot be forgotten that Ukrainian was an active language of communication for a large number of academics, even during the days of Russian-dominated academic literature” [Кочерга 1994, 173].

Thus, it is found that during the translation of scientific and technical texts from the Russian language into Ukrainian a violation of normativity both at the lexical and word-building levels is observed. This has allowed not only to distinguish the above types of errors, but also to identify ways of eliminating them, which could become a priority for further studies of linguists and translators.

It is proved that a long period of coexistence of the two language systems, with one of which having had a significant impact on the other, led not only to the distortion of the UEPET system, but also to the emergence of the errors identified in the translation activity. Today, at this stage of independent formation, difficulties in working with terminology have become apparent not only with manufacturers, designers, academics, and managers of different levels, but also academic and technical translators. To define the same concepts, various terms are sometimes used, some of which have open interpretations which do not coincide in various documents. All of this hinders the work of specialists and may negatively affect the results of their activities.

Equally relevant today is the development of a dictionary-reference book of standardized terms and definitions as the basis of the information resource in the area of electric power engineering. This will allow not only to unify the UEPET system, but also to create a scientifically substantiated base and an automated bank of electric power engineering vocabulary, and to compile a dictionary in accordance with the norms of modern Ukrainian literary language.

Therefore, linguistic considerations concerning the translation of some electric power engineering terminology into Ukrainian eliminate terminological barriers for translators. This in turn makes it possible to reach the appropriate level of linguistic and logical translation systems of academic and technical texts.

### Bibliography

- Farion Ārina Dmitriivna. 2010. *Мовна норма: знищення, пошук, віднова*. Āvano-Frankiv's'k: "Misto NV" [Фаріон Ірина Дмитрівна. 2010. *Мовна норма: знищення, пошук, віднова*. Івано-Франківськ: "Місто НВ"].
- Harčuk Liliā. 2012. *Porušenā movnih norm v ukraĭns'kij elektroenergetiĭnij terminologii*. "Ukraĭns'kij smisl" № 1: 114-121 [Харчук Лілія. 2012. *Порушення мовних норм в українській електроенергетичній термінології*. "Український смисл" № 1: 114-121].
- Harčuk Liliā. 2013. *To the question of normativity of some Ukrainian electric power engineering terms. "Gumanitarni ta social'ni nauki: Materiali IV Mižnarodnoĭ konferencĭi molodih včeniĭ NSS-2013"*. L'viv: Vidavnictvo L'vivs'koĭ politehnikĭ [Харчук Лілія. 2013. *To the question of normativity of some Ukrainian electric power engineering terms. "Гуманітарні та соціальні науки: Матеріали IV Міжнародної конференції молодих вчених HSS-2013"*. Львів: Видавництво Львівської політехніки].
- Harčuk Liliā. 2014. *Do pitannā normativnosti deākih ukraĭns'kih elektroenergetiĭnih terminiv*. "Naukovĭ zapiski Nacional'nogo unĭversitetu "Ostroz'ka akademiā". Serĭā "Filologĭčna": Zbĭrnik naukovih prac'. Ostrog: Vidavnictvo Nacional'nogo unĭversitetu "Ostroz'ka akademiā" № 45: 60-63 [Харчук Лілія. 2014. *До питання нормативності деяких українських електроенергетичних термінів*. "Наукові записки Національного університету "Острозька академія". Серія "Філологічна": Збірник наукових праць. Острог: Видавництво Національного університету "Острозька академія" вип. 45: 60-63].
- Harčuk Liliā. 2017. *Formuvannā ta sistemna organizaciā ukraĭns'koĭ elektroenergetiĭnoĭ terminosistemi*. Dis. ...kand. filol. nauk. L'viv [Харчук Лілія. 2017. *Формування та системна організація української електроенергетичної терміносистеми*. Дис. ...канд. філол. наук. Львів].
- Kočerġa Olena. 1994. *Deāki mĭrkuvannā pro šlāhi ĭ manĭvcĭ rozvitku ukraĭns'koĭ naukoĭoĭ terminologii*. "Sučasniĭst" № 7-8: 173-182 [Кочерга Олена. 1994. *Деякі міркування про шляхи і манівці розвитку української наукової термінології*. "Сучасність" № 7-8: 173-182].
- Kurilo Olena. 2008. *Uvagi do sučasnoĭ ukraĭns'koĭ literaturnoĭ movi*. Kiĭv: Vidavnictvo Solomĭi Pavličko "Osnovi" [Курило Олена. 2008. *Уваги до сучасної української літературної мови*. Київ: Видавництво Соломії Павличко "Основи"].
- Perhač Volodimir, Bogdan Kĭnaš. 1997. *Rosĭjs'ko-ukraĭns'kij naukoĭo-tehniĭnij slovník (30000 sliv)*. L'viv [Перхач Володимир, Богдан Кінаш. 1997. *Російсько-український науково-технічний словник (30000 слів)*. Львів].
- Polūġa Levko. 2002. *Zdobutki ĭ vtrati ukraĭns'koĭ terminologii ta terminografĭi za desāt' rokĭv Nezaležnosti*. "Viĭsniĭk Nacional'nogo unĭversitetu "L'vivs'ka politehnikā". Serĭā "Problemi ukraĭns'koĭ terminologii". L'viv: L'vivs'ka politehnikā № 453: 21-23 [Полюга Левко. 2002. *Здобутки і втрати української термінології та термінографії*



- за десять років Незалежності. “Вісник Національного університету “Львівська політехніка”. Серія “Проблеми української термінології” № 453: 21-23].
- Šereh Ūrij. 1951. *Naris sučasnoï ukraïns'koï movi*. Mûnhen [Шерех Юрій. 1951. *Нарис сучасної української мови*. Мюнхен].
- Slovník ukraïns'koï movi: v 11-ti tomah*. 1970-1980. Golova redkolegii Bilodid Ī. K. Kiïv: Naukova dumka [Словник української мови: в 11-ти томах. 1970-1980. Голова редколегії Білодід І. К. Київ: Наукова думка].
- Tlumačnij rosìjs'ko-ukraïns'ko-anglijs'kij slovník z energetiki. Osnovni termini: ponad 3500 terminiv*. 1999. Red. Rudnik A.A. Harkiv [Тлумачний російсько-українсько-англійський словник з енергетики. Основні терміни: понад 3500 термінів. 1999. Ред. Руднік А.А. Харків].
- Ukraïns'ka mova u XX storìččì: istorià lîngvocidu: Dokumenti i materialì*. 2005. Red. Masenko L. Kiïv: Vidavničij dîm “Kiëvo-Mogilâns'ka akademiâ” [Українська мова у XX сторіччі: історія лінгвоциду: Документи і матеріали. 2005. Ред. Масенко Л. Київ: Видавничий дім “Києво-Могилянська академія”].
- Ukraïns'ko-rosìjs'ko-anglo-francuz'kij tlumačnij slovník osnovnih terminiv z energetiki ta elektrotehniki*. 2012. Red. Êmel'ânova Ê.S. Harkiv: Virovec' A.P. “Apostrof” [Українсько-російсько-англо-французький тлумачний словник основних термінів з енергетики та електротехніки. 2012. Ред. Ємельянова Є.С. Харків: Віровець А.П. “Апостроф”].

## Summary

### TRANSLATION ERRORS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF INTERFERING INFLUENCES ON UKRAINIAN ELECTRIC POWER ENGINEERING TERMINOLOGY

This study analyzes one of the periods of the Ukrainian electric power engineering system development (period of distortion) with the purpose of detecting typical errors in translation of terminology from Russian into Ukrainian. To date, scientific and academic literatures remain Russified; a violation of linguistic norms on the lexical and derivational levels is quite common. We consider that recommendations of linguists concerning academic and technical translations will be valuable for specialist in the electric power industry and will contribute to a harmonious development of Ukrainian electric power engineering terminology.

Kontakt z Avtorqã:  
kharchuklv@i.ua