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CORPUS AND LEXICOGRAPHY BASED RESEARCH OF ENGLISH MILITARY NOUNS

***Abstract:** The article presents application of lexicographical method and method of corpus based data analyses for closer definition of English nouns intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance in military contexts. The paper discusses the results of a context research of the mentioned nouns in some of their syntactical positions. The results are going to be applied at the lessons for training future military translators in professional communication. The research was based on British National Corpus data, Cambridge English dictionary and The Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.*

***Keywords:** collocation, corpus based analyses, lexicographical method, word combination, military context.*

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**ЛЕКСИКОГРАФИЧЕСКОЕ И КОРПУСНОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ
НЕКОТОРЫХ АНГЛИЙСКИХ СУЩЕСТВИТЕЛЬНЫХ ВОЕННОЙ
ТЕМАТИКИ**

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается применение лексикографического метода и метода анализа корпусных данных для уточнения значения близких по значению единиц военной тематики *intelligence*, *reconnaissance* и *surveillance* в военных контекстах, а также для уточнения их коллокационного потенциала с целью использования результатов для обучения курсантов, занимающихся в группах ДПО «Переводчик в сфере профессиональной коммуникации». Для анализа значений и валентности интересующих единиц были использованы данные Британского Национального Корпуса, Кембриджский англо-английский словарь и специализированный толковый словарь МО США.

Ключевые слова: коллокационный потенциал, анализ корпусных данных, лексикографический метод, словосочетание, военный контекст

Cadets of the Air Force Academy participate in program of supplementary vocational education to get a specialty of Professional translation for expert communities or a translator in professional communication. Cadets admitted to the program possess advanced language skills, however, they need to learn a lot of new

vocabulary and be aware of meanings and collocations of special military terms. For that purpose we have carried out a research to clarify the difference between the meanings of terms, often used in military texts, such as intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance.

Generally the terms intelligence and reconnaissance are confused by cadets because they elicit common Russian correspondence: разведка, наблюдение. Surveillance is defined as collection of information about the enemy and in special military texts sometimes collocates with the same nouns as reconnaissance does, for example: air, ground (surveillance/reconnaissance); to carry out (surveillance/reconnaissance) mission. So, the question is – how to draw line between the three terms, how to use them and translate correctly?

Let us investigate the problem by two methods. The first one is lexicographical one, which implies consulting the English-English definition dictionaries. We have looked up monolingual Cambridge English dictionary on-line and specialized dictionary «The Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms» for the meanings of nouns intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Though the definitions of target nouns, given by the dictionaries, have much in common the specialized military dictionary definitions are more detailed and accurate. Compare:

Таблица 1

dictionary	Cambridge English dictionary	The Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms
target vocabulary		
intelligence	<u>Secret information about the governments of other countries, especially enemy governments, or a group of people who collect and deal with this information.</u>	1. The product resulting from the collection, processing, integration, evaluation, analysis, and interpretation of available information concerning foreign nations, hostile or potentially hostile forces or elements, or areas

		of actual or potential operations. 2. The activities that result in the product. 3. The organizations engaged in such activities.
reconnaissance	The <u>process</u> of getting <u>information</u> about <u>enemy forces</u> or <u>positions</u> by <u>sending out small groups of soldiers</u> or by using <u>aircraft</u> , etc.	A mission undertaken to obtain, by visual observation or other detection methods, information about the activities and resources of an enemy or adversary, or to secure data concerning the meteorological, hydrographic, or geographic characteristics of a particular area.
surveillance	The <u>careful watching</u> of a <u>person</u> or <u>place</u> , <u>especially</u> by the <u>police</u> or <u>army</u> , because of a <u>crime</u> that has <u>happened</u> or is <u>expected</u>	The systematic observation of aerospace, surface, or subsurface areas, places, persons, or things, by visual, aural, electronic, photographic, or other means.

Moreover, the specialized military dictionary contains up to 44 terminological definitions concerning the noun intelligence, such as «communications intelligence», «intelligence database» or «intelligence report».

The second approach to the problem is based on analyzing linguistic corpus data. In our research we resorted to the British National Corpus. Corpus based research has become an essential means of dealing with various linguistic problems. According to John Sinclair, «a corpus is a collection of naturally-occurring language texts, chosen to characterize a state or variety of a language [which] typically contains many millions of words» [4, c. 171].

Corpus based data «is especially crucial in the case of would-be translators with fewer interpretative and strategic skills compared to professionals» [3, c. 89]

Results of the contextual analyses of the word «intelligence» has revealed attributive word combinations, where the target noun is in syntactical position of attributive and often is a part of the name of an agency, for example: military and political intelligence; Secret Intelligence Service; Pakistan's Intelligence Agency; French Intelligence; American Intelligence; Russian Intelligence. In other cases «intelligence» collocates with nouns groups, denoting information processing, such as: error, assessment, information, operations, gathering. For example: «US officials had acknowledged a significant intelligence error».

Corpus based analyses of contexts of the noun «reconnaissance» revealed a large portion of attributive word combinations where the target word functions as an attributive. Position of main nouns in such word combinations is occupied by the following two groups of nouns: 1) types of aircraft: aircraft, fighter, satellite, for example: «Reconnaissance aircraft spotted Iraqi forces»; 2) combat missions: sorties, flight, raid, mission, task, purposes, for example: «To allow unarmed reconnaissance flights over each other's territories». However, noun «reconnaissance» in a syntactical position of the main noun collocates with such words as: air, beach, photo, preliminary, aerial, supporting. For example: «The First World War showed the potential of aerial reconnaissance».

Finally, the attributive collocations, that noun «surveillance» forms, have the main nouns of the following two groups: 1) denoting various equipment: tape, hard drive, software, gear, equipment, aircraft, system, for example: «They took the surveillance hard drive. Alcon Jet Corporation made a successful bid to provide the United States Coast Guard with a Medium Range Surveillance aircraft». Compare it with the second group denoting various methods of surveillance: mission, operation, photo, work, for example: «They carried out surveillance work in areas where uniformed troops could not move freely».

The conducted corpus based research assisted with lexicographical method illustrates the capabilities of BNC and specialized dictionaries to emphasize the difference between collocations, formed by the target nouns in military contexts. In fact, analysis of the results of our research gives teachers a chance to think about

creating a specialized military corpus, dealing with special air force vocabulary. «Creating our own specialized corpus – is a perspective and worldwide practice. It meets the needs of a military translator and even teachers involved in specialized translation teaching organization» [2, с. 92] . Both of the methods open up potential for future investigation of military vocabulary collocations in contexts and help future military translators to realize the importance of accurate translation.

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