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Research article

Ukrainian military terminology in the conditions of armed aggression: legislative and media discourses

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The paper provides an overview of Ukrainian media that highlights the problem of using terminology, in particular military terminology and, more broadly, war terminology, as well as military vocabulary in the context of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. The problem of legal regulation of military terminology in Ukrainian legislation in its correlation with international law is partially covered. The volume of military terminology in the "Legislative Terminology" and Thesaurus "Eurovoc" databases on the website of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine¹ (as of September 2022) is analyzed. The recommendations of individual media experts and lawyers regarding the use of military terminology, war terminology and military vocabulary in the media and legislative discourses of Ukraine are summarized. Attention is drawn to the peculiarities of the lexicographic fixation of such terminology and the development of the "Dictionary of Correct Terminology for the Coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian War" and the "Terminological Dictionary of the Russian-Ukrainian War". The main contradictions in the development of Ukrainian military terminology in both discourses, caused by Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, are formulated.

Keywords: terminology, military terminology, military vocabulary, media discourse, legislative discourse

¹ Ukrainian Parliament.

La terminologie militaire ukrainienne en cas d'agression armée : discours législatif et discours médiatique

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Ce texte donne un aperçu à vol d'oiseau des médias ukrainiens qui met en évidence le problème de l'utilisation d'une terminologie appropriée, en particulier de la terminologie militaire et, plus largement, de la terminologie de la guerre, ainsi que du vocabulaire militaire, dans le contexte de l'agression armée de la Russie contre l'Ukraine. Y est partiellement couvert le problème de la réglementation juridique de la terminologie militaire dans la législation ukrainienne en corrélation avec le droit international. Y est analysé le nombre de termes militaires recensés dans les bases de données "Terminologie législative" et dans le Thésaurus "Eurovoc" sur le site web de la Verkhovna Rada d'Ukraine (en date de septembre 2022). Y sont synthétisées les recommandations d'experts des médias et de juristes, concernant l'utilisation de la terminologie militaire, de la terminologie de guerre et du vocabulaire militaire, dans les médias et les discours législatifs de l'Ukraine. L'article attire l'attention sur les particularités de la fixation lexicographique de cette terminologie et sur le développement du « Dictionnaire de la terminologie correcte pour la couverture de la guerre russo-ukrainienne » et du « Dictionnaire terminologique de la guerre russo-ukrainienne ». Y sont indiquées les principales contradictions dans le développement de la terminologie militaire ukrainienne qu'a causées, dans les deux types de discours, l'agression armée de la Russie contre l'Ukraine.

Mots clés : terminologie, terminologie militaire, vocabulaire militaire, discours des médias, discours législatif

1 Introduction

The problem of analysing the state of terminology development of a particular language in difficult life circumstances is relevant. It has many aspects and it depends on the factors that cause the difficult life circumstances, as well as on the specifics of the terminologies of various spheres of human activity. There are general trends in the development of terminology in different countries. For example, Ukrainian terminology gives preference to the tendency to preserve the national identity of Ukrainian terminology, to the use of specific Ukrainian terms, when choosing which term to use (national or borrowed). However, it tries to combine this tendency with the tendency towards internationalization. Russian terminology, on the contrary, is oriented more towards the international basis of development. In some countries, there are fields of knowledge that do not have their own terminologies in the national language, which is a serious problem.

This paper presents an analytical review of the problems of Ukrainian terminology highlighted by the war, in the aspect of a functional research paradigm in both spheres – legal and media.²

The problem of the development of terminology in difficult life circumstances, caused by the factors specified in the legislation of Ukraine, has not received attention from Ukrainian terminology³, but is actively discussed by media experts and legislators. A full examination is outside the scope of this paper. Our research is only an attempt to touch upon this problem for the first time and to draw the attention of the international scientific community to some aspects of the use (functioning), codification and legislative consolidation (normative and legal regulation) of only one branch of terminology – military terminology in difficult life circumstances, in particular, in the circumstances that today are caused by "armed aggression of the Russian Federation as a terrorist state against Ukraine" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2003).

² Since our research is a view from Ukraine, first of all we will define the concept of "difficult life circumstances" / ук "складні життєві обставини" presented in Ukrainian legislation. In particular, the Law of Ukraine "On Social Services" defines the concept of "difficult life circumstances" as "circumstances that negatively affect the life, health and development of a person, and functioning of a family, which a person/family cannot overcome on their own" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2019). The same law also lists the main factors that can lead to difficult life circumstances, among which are hostilities, acts of terrorism, armed conflict, temporary occupation, etc. In the scientific/research literature, the concept of "difficult life circumstances" is defined differently, and therefore difficult life circumstances are classified differently (Salamova & Mamedov, 2021; Chernysh, 2019 and others). (The search for English-language equivalents of this concept at the legislative level of EU countries requires a separate study. The concepts of "challenging circumstances", "difficult circumstances", "exigent circumstances", "emergency circumstances", etc. are partly correlated with their definitions in some aspects.)

³ A note on usage: in the Ukrainian context, unlike some others, terminology research is referred to as a science, and that practice is followed in this paper. In the Ukrainian discourse, the terms *scientists* and *researchers* are synonymous.

We define **military terminology** as a set of terms (words and phrases) to denote general military and special concepts related to military affairs, military science, military equipment (military and technical terms), military legislation, military policy (military and political terms), military diplomacy (military and diplomatic terms), etc. We come across the following definitions of the concepts "military terminology" (1) and "military term" (2) in the military standard "Administrative activity. Linguistic provision of troops (forces). Substantive provisions" (2018):

- (1) **military terminology** "is a systematized (ordered and structured), standardized (normative) and harmonized (agreed on interagency or interstate level) set of military terms";
- (2) **military term** "a word, phrase or abbreviation denoting an object, phenomenon, process in the sphere of activity of troops (forces) on the basis of nominativeness, representativeness, unambiguity, normalization, and semantic and stylistic neutrality" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2018, p. 11).⁴

In the same standard, it is stated that "military terms are combined into military terminological systems – a set of military terms and definitions connected by logical and semantic links" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2018, p. 11).

The concept of "military terminology" should not be confused with the much broader concept of "terminology of war" (military terminology and terminology of other spheres of activity used during war). We also distinguish military vocabulary, which, in addition to codified military terminology, also includes professionalisms, military slang, jargon, and emotionally-coloured military vocabulary (words and phrases) being used mainly in military colloquial speech. To some extent, the concept of "military vocabulary" is bordered by the broader concept of "war vocabulary"⁵ including commonly used vocabulary in addition to everything listed above, which becomes the key vocabulary of the war period.

In the Ukrainian scientific discourse since the beginning of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, or the Russian-Ukrainian war, which began in 2014⁶ military terminology has repeatedly attracted the attention of scientists (see, for example, Ya. P. Yaremko, B. Yakymovych, V. Ya. Zhalai, T. G. Lynnyk, T. M. Myroniuk, A. F. Parkhomenko, I. I. Rakhmanova, L. M. Rubashova, S. M. Frolov, I. O. Krylov, A. Voitsishchuk, etc.). However, only one study was devoted to the actual problems of studying Ukrainian military terminology in difficult life circumstances. This is a thorough paper (Zhalai et al.,

⁴ Translations of legislation in this paper are by the authors, and **emphasis** has been added where appropriate.

⁵ The vocabulary of war today in Ukraine is represented, in particular, by the open project "Dictionary of War: Short Stories of Resistance" (Slyvynskyi, 2022), which is still ongoing. The initiators of the project collect fragments of other people's stories and observations, which are concentrated around certain words, such as: *Grandmother, Echo, Adulthood, Crimea, Touch, Scarecrow, Puzzle, Treasure, Sugar*, etc.

⁶ It is worth noting that the components of the Russian-Ukrainian war are: the Russian armed invasion of Crimea (February-March 2014) (Vasylenko, 2014); the war in the east of Ukraine / in Donbas (since April 2014); Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine / Russia's large-scale armed aggression against Ukraine (from February 24, 2022).

2018), devoted to the study of military terminology and military vocabulary from the moment Ukraine gained independence until 2018. The relevance of studying the problems of military terminology, according to the researchers, is due to the rapid replenishment⁷ of the terminological vocabulary with new terms and words (names to denote new symbols, emblems, military units, new types of clothing, military operations, military commands and greetings, new military ranks) (Zhalai et al., 2018, p. 11, 21). This is partially due, on the one hand, to the establishment of new military formations; on the other hand, to the integration of the Armed Forces of Ukraine into world military traditions (NATO standards, for example), the reorganization of the types of armed forces, the appearance and development of new models of military weapons and military equipment, a new strategy for conducting military operations, etc. (Zhalai et al., 2018, p. 11, 21).

With the establishment in March 2014 of the National Guard of Ukraine as a military formation with law enforcement functions that participates in collaboration with the Armed Forces of Ukraine in repelling armed aggression against Ukraine, the question arose of codification of terminology which is used by the National Guard in professional activity and training. That is why in 2016 the "Dictionary of professional terminology for future specialists of the National Guard of Ukraine" was published, which fixed the most commonly used concepts of military professional terminology. A separate section presents the terminologies of the field of professional military communication (Vovk et al., 2016).

In the conditions of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, there is a "need to gradually introduce into the activities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine the military terminology of the NATO member states", which "comprehensively support Ukraine in its desire to adequately repel the aggressor and actively provide advisory assistance regarding the transformation of the system of leadership of the defence forces and military management in the Armed Forces of Ukraine" (Anonymous, 2020, p. 4). In this aspect, it is important to analyse to what extent the Ukrainian military has acquired the terminology of the "Doctrine of the Armed Forces of the United States of America" (Anonymous, 2013), whether it is correctly understood and used during conducting operations under the auspices of NATO. That is why, with the assistance of the Military-Scientific Department of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, scientific and scientific-pedagogical workers of the Central Research Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the National Defence University of Ukraine named after Ivan Chernyakhovsky compiled the "Dictionary of Military Terms and Abbreviations (Abbreviations)" (2020). The dictionary consists of two parts: basic terms and definitions, and a translation of the terms and definitions of the Doctrine of the Armed Forces of the United States of America (JP 1). It is now evident that the problems of studying military terminology and vocabulary in the conditions of difficult life circumstances, currently caused by the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine, are

⁷ "Replacement" is not appropriate in this regard, as we do not imply substitution but restoration of the autochthonous Ukrainian names and filling of gaps with new ones.

extremely multifaceted. Our paper uses the **method of problem analysis** of empirical material, focusing only on some features of the use of military terminology and military vocabulary in the media and legislative discourses of Ukraine, which has not yet been the object of special study in Ukrainian terminology. The application of this method involves the following structural organization of the paper: first, the problem is formulated, and then an example that illustrates it is given.

2 Legislative discourse of Ukraine: terminology legal regulation

2.1 Problem: use of different concepts to qualify Russia's actions against Ukraine in Ukrainian legislation and international law

The concept of "armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine" in the documents of international organizations correlates with the concept of "Russian aggression in Ukraine". According to the authors of the manual "ABC. Armed Conflict in Terms" (2019), it was first recorded in the Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) 2067 (2015) dated June 25, 2015 (Dutsyk et al., 2019, p. 4), however, without a definition.

The problem of harmonizing international legal terminology regarding the qualification of Russia's actions against Ukraine, starting from February 20, 2014, requires a separate study. Here we only note that experts in the field of media and lawyers pay attention to the different interpretation of such actions in international law, which is also reflected in the correlation of the concepts "aggression" (3) and "international armed conflict" (4). Compare definitions of these concepts:

- (3) **"Aggression** is the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations" (General Assembly – Twenty-ninth Session, 1974, Art. 1, p. 143);
- (4) The International Humanitarian Law relating to international armed conflicts applies "to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by one of them" (Convention (I), 1949, Art. 2(1)).

Ukrainian legislation envisages the concepts:

- (5) **military conflict** "a form of resolution of interstate or intrastate disputes with bilateral use of military force; the main **types of military conflict are war and armed conflict**" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2018);
- (6) **armed aggression** "use of armed force against Ukraine by another state or group of states"⁸ (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1991);
- (7) **international armed conflict** "any conflict between two or more states with the use of armed forces" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2017b, Section I, Paragraph 2).

⁸ The Law of Ukraine "On the Defence of Ukraine" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1991) clearly defines which actions are considered armed aggression against Ukraine.

The Law of Ukraine "On National Security of Ukraine" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2018), recognizes **war as one of the types of military conflict**. It turns out that the concepts of "war" and "armed conflict" are in a relationship of subordination in the legislative discourse of Ukraine. The Order of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine "On the Approval of the Instruction on the Procedure for the Implementation of Norms of International Humanitarian Law in the Armed Forces of Ukraine" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2017b) contains an indirect identification of concepts (8) and (9):

- (8) "war" and "international armed conflict": "The scope of the obligations of a party to an **international armed conflict (war)** is determined by both the norms of customary law and the treaty norms of international humanitarian law (hereinafter – IHL), ratified by each party" (Section I, Paragraph 1);
- (9) "war" and "armed conflict": "The use of prohibited methods and means of waging **war (armed conflict)** can be committed both intentionally and negligently" (Section I, Paragraph 8).

Therefore, the contradiction is obvious: the relationship "international armed conflict" = "war" contradicts the relationship "war" = "armed conflict", since the concept of "armed conflict" is generic to the specific concept of "international armed conflict". Compare the presence of the specific concept of "non-international (internal) armed conflict" in the same document.

Such different interpretations are caused by the lack of a definition of the concept of "war" in the legislation of Ukraine, as well as in international law, which requires ordering and unifying the system of concepts related to war. The term war as a "non-legal analogue of the term armed conflict" (although the concept of "armed conflict" is broader in scope than the concept of "war") (Senatorova, 2018, p. 123, 138) is actively used in media discourse.

2.2 Problem: different extensions of the same concepts in Ukrainian legislation

One of the urgent tasks of the development of Ukrainian terminology in the conditions of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine is work on the establishment and use of a unified terminology in the field of national security and state defence. According to experts in the field of military legislation of the Center for Military and Strategic Studies of the National Defence University of Ukraine named after Ivan Chernyakhovsky, this task correlates, on the one hand, with the need to improve military legislation in the field of defence of Ukraine, and on the other hand, with the problem of insufficient legal awareness and understanding of the essence of some terms of this sphere contributing to the strengthening of the destructive information and propaganda of the aggressor state on the consciousness of citizens (Topolnytskyi & Tychna, 2019, p. 91). According to V. Topolnytskyi and B. Tychna (2019), Ukrainian legislation in the field of defence demands improvement, as it does not fix the main definitions and does not distinguish between the key concepts of "state of war"/ укр "стан війни" and "martial state"/ укр "воєнний стан". These scientists in 2019 suggested distinguishing the concepts of "state of war"/ укр "стан війни", "wartime"/ укр "воєнний час", and "martial law"/ укр "воєнний

стан" in view of the problem of legal regulation of the procedure of "declaration of a state of war", "the onset of wartime" and "introduction of martial law".

"(...) Issues related to the legal regulation of the specified relations and the determination of the beginning of **hostilities** and the onset of **wartime** require significant further elaboration and complex scientific research with subsequent introduction of appropriate changes to the legislation in the field of defence" (Topolnytskyi & Tychna, 2019, p. 98).

The definition of the concept of "martial law"/ ук "воєнний стан", which was first envisaged in the Law of Ukraine "On Defence" (10) back in 1991 (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1991), underwent a transformation with the beginning of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine; in particular, it was supplemented with new features of the corresponding concept in the Law of Ukraine "On Legal Regime of Martial Law" (11) (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2015). Compare:

- (10) **martial law** "is a special legal regime imposed in Ukraine or in some of its localities in the event of armed aggression or a threat of attack, a threat to the state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity, and provides for the granting of powers to the relevant state authorities, military command and local self-government bodies, necessary to avert the threat and ensure national security, as well as the temporary, threat-induced, restriction of the constitutional rights and freedoms of a person and citizen and the rights and legal interests of legal entities, with an indication of the period of validity of these restrictions" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1991, Section I, Art. 1);
- (11) **martial law** "is a special legal regime imposed in Ukraine or in some of its localities in the event of armed aggression or threat of attack, danger to the state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity, and provides for the provision of appropriate state authorities, military command, **military administrations** and local self-government of the powers necessary to avert the threat, repulse armed aggression and ensure national security, **eliminate the threat of danger to the state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity**, as well as temporary, due to the threat, restriction of the constitutional rights and freedoms of the person and citizen and the rights and legitimate interests of legal entities indicating the period of validity of these restrictions" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2015, Art. 1).

The concepts of "state of war"/ ук "стан війни" and "wartime"/ ук "воєнний час" still do not have legally established definitions⁹ However, there are legally established terms *neutrality in wartime*/ ук *нейтралітет у воєнний час* (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2017b) and *deployment of troops (in a special period, for wartime)*/ ук *дислокація військ (в особливий період, на воєнний час)* (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020), which include the term *wartime* as their component without legislative definition. The term *wartime*/ ук *воєнний час* requires regulation at the legislative level.

⁹ For proposals on the legal regulation of these concepts, see (Topolnytskyi & Tychna, 2019, p. 98).

2.3 Problem: developing a unified military terminology in the national legislation of Ukraine and its adaptation to European Union law

The terminological databases "Terminology of Legislation" and Thesaurus "Eurovoc" created in the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the main page of the official website of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine can contribute to the development of a unified system of military legislation terms and the adaptation of the national legislation of Ukraine to the norms of European Union law (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2022a). The databases, established in 2020, help to check existing or introduce new terms and their definitions, to prepare draft laws, to carry out an informational search for terms in the system "Legislation of Ukraine".

The "Terminology of Legislation" section is an alphabetical list of terms (c. 78,000 in January 2020, and 86,918 as of September 2022) from Ukrainian legislation with definitions in the texts of documents. Accessing the term card allows you to see all its definitions in different documents or editions, and on switching from the document to the list of terms one may see all the terms defined in one or another document (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020–2022a). For example, an information search for the term *war/ uk війна* showed that it is found in 4838 legislative acts, the term *aggression/ uk агресія* in 540 legislative acts, and *armed conflict/ uk збройний конфлікт* in 223. The system allows you to search for terms by details (word, type of document, date of adoption, document number, etc.) and advanced search by the name of a legislative act or in the text. It is possible to find out the history of the legislative establishment of the meaning of the term. For example, the term *prisoners of war/ uk військовополонений* has 4 different legally established meanings in 5 valid documents, of which the same meaning is used in 2 documents; this requires unification.

The Thesaurus "Eurovoc" is "the Ukrainian version of the multilingual terminological and legal platform (thesaurus, version 4.9) of the European Union, which has 21 topics with microthesauruses and is officially presented in 24 EU languages" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020–2022b). The hierarchical list of topics contains 8,670 terms and their equivalents in EU languages. Although this list does not have a specific military law topic, military terminology can be found in the microthesaurus tree under various topics. For instance, the topic "international relations" contains 4 microthesauruses – "international affairs", "cooperation policy", "international security", "defence", with each having its own microthesauruses. In particular, the "defence" microthesaurus also has 4 microthesauruses – "military equipment", "armed forces", "arms policy", "defence policy", which contain a hierarchically constructed list of 72 terms and their equivalents in 24 languages.

The Thesaurus "Eurovoc" is integrated with the automatic translation systems Google Translator, Reverso Context, and Glosbe, and online dictionaries, including General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus (GMET), UNESCO Thesaurus, UNBIS Thesaurus and Linked Data Services, and Leibniz-Informationszentrum Wirtschaft (ZBW)

(Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020–2022b). The Ukrainian translation and editing of the entire Thesaurus "Eurovoc" was carried out by linguists of the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (V.V. Kopyika, M.M. Hnatovskiy, A.O. Korynevych, K.V. Smyrnova, A.L. Fedorova, O.R. Poyedynok, R.S. Yedelev).

2.4 Problem: operational modification or reinterpretation of the definitions of legally established concepts in accordance with the changes required by the state of war in Ukraine

Another trend in the legislative discourse development of the terminology in the conditions of Russian armed aggression is the operational modification of the definitions of some military concepts in accordance with the changes inevitably occurring in difficult life situations.

The concepts of "voluntary formation of a territorial community"/ ук "добровольче формування територіальної громади" and "territorial defence"/ ук "територіальна оборона", established by law in 2021, began to be actively used, inter alia, in the conditions of martial law in Ukraine imposed from February 24, 2022 until now. Given the fact that the mechanisms for attracting fighters and carrying out resistance are constantly being modified, accordingly, changes were quickly made to the legislation¹⁰, including the aspect of reformulating these key concepts. Compare, for example, the changes in the legislative formulation of the concept of "voluntary formation of a territorial community"/ ук "добровольче формування територіальної громади":

- (12) "a paramilitary unit formed on a voluntary basis from citizens of Ukraine living within the territory of the relevant territorial community, which is intended to participate in the preparation and execution of territorial defence tasks **within the territory of the relevant territorial community**" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2021a);
- (13) "a paramilitary unit formed on a voluntary basis from citizens of Ukraine living within the territory of the relevant territorial community, which is intended to participate in the preparation and performance of territorial defence tasks" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2021b)¹¹.

2.5 Problem: engagement of lawyers to explain to ordinary people the extensions of military concepts in the conditions of war

Lawyers also help to highlight and explain the transformations in the scope of certain legally established (especially military) concepts. They draft the amendments to laws

¹⁰On May 3, 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the Basics of National Resistance" on Enabling Territorial Defence to Perform Tasks in Areas of Military (Combat) Actions" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2022d). On June 12, 2022, a new Law (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2021b).

¹¹ Revision on June 12, 2022. Next to each legislative document in the bibliography there are two dates: first, the adoption of the document, and then, after the title in round brackets, its revision (amendments, additions, or entry into force). It is necessary to pay attention to the second date, which testifies to the changes during wartime.

and, accordingly, cause changes in the formulation of certain concepts envisaged in it. Take for example the concept of "voluntary formation of a territorial community" / uk "добровольче формування територіальної громади". It is noted in "Yuridichna Gazeta online" that the slight change in the definition of the term is not accidental (the legislator removed the criterion "within the territory of the relevant territorial communities"), as it is important in establishing the possibility of involving relevant units to perform tasks in the combat zone outside the boundaries of their own territorial communities (Yerema & Oleshchuk, 2022).

Changes have also taken place in the legislative wording of the concept of "territorial defence" / uk "територіальна оборона", the definition of which has undergone drastic changes (it has become much more laconic) in view of the loss of validity in 2021 of the Order of the Security Service of Ukraine "On Approval of the Compendium of Information That Constitutes a State Secret" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2005) and the adoption on July 16, 2021 of the new Law of Ukraine "On the Foundations of National Resistance" (edited on June 12, 2022) (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2021b). Experts in the field of jurisprudence note that "legally, this means that the territorial defence no longer performs subsidiary functions of defence and protection. From now on, the role of territorial defence is similar to the role of the Ukrainian army. In fact, the change means that the territorial defence units (...) become full-fledged combat units" (Yerema & Oleshchuk, 2022).

2.6 Problem: revising Ukrainian military legislation to be cleared of Soviet terms

Equally important and urgent today is the task of purifying the current Ukrainian legislation and its terminology from Sovietization, in order to improve its quality and to bring it closer to European standards. It means, first, the termination of the validity and non-application in the territory of Ukraine of about 30 legal acts of state authorities and state administration bodies of the Union of the SSR, the Ukrainian SSR in the field of military legislation (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2022c); and second, Ukrainization of the statutes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine which remain relevant, in particular the removal of Russianisms from them, such as: *положення* (must be uk *постава*), *військовослужбовець* (must be uk *військовик*), *обстановка* (must be either uk *ситуація*), *Стройовий статут* (must be uk *Муштровий статут*), etc. The above suggestions were made by B. Yakymovych (2018). In the Statute of the Internal Service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine the Soviet greeting "Hello, comrades", "Long life / We wish (I wish) you health" was changed to "Glory to Ukraine!" (uk "Слава Україні!"), "Glory to the heroes!" (uk "Героям слава!") (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1999). But Russianisms still remain (Drozd et al., 2022), which require further terminological work in this regard.

Researchers of military terminology point out that, with the beginning of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine – as well as the change in the system of emblems, symbols, types of clothing, military ranks, commands and salutes – the active replacement of

corresponding names with their designations, renaming of regiments, military units, and tank brigades began so that the new terms would correspond to the Ukrainian military tradition (Zhalai et al., 2018). The army rebranding campaign reached its peak in 2018. However, the Ukrainian military historian V.Pavlov notes that the bureaucratism of some state institutions slows down this process. It is necessary to introduce changes to dozens, if not hundreds, of legislative acts in order to change military ranks (Skorokhod, 2018).

2.7 Problem: compatibility of military standards and terminology of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with the standards of NATO and NATO member states

Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, 29 military standards with terms and definitions have entered into force in Ukraine (out of 205 military standards that were created during this period), especially in the fields of: military policy, security and strategic planning; military science; logistics; operations and hostilities; preparation; activities of state aviation; space activities in the sphere of defence; security of ammunition and explosives; military intelligence; engineering, engineering and aviation, informational and analytical, navigation, radio and technical and artillery and technical support (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2022). The Order of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine "On Military Standardization" No. 56 dated February 24, 2020 defines the purpose of military standardization as not only "achieving, maintaining and improving the interoperability of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other components of the defence forces with the armed forces of NATO and NATO member states", but also "harmonization of terminology in the security and defence sector" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2020).

According to experts, the first successful example of the development of an administrative standard based on NATO standards was the implementation in 2018 of the military standard "Administrative activity. Linguistic support of troops (forces). Main features" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2018).

- (14) "**Linguistic support of troops (forces)** is a set of special measures, tasks, procedures and processes of an applied and fundamental nature in the military and political, military and technical and special military spheres of activity of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which are carried out with the aim of implementing intercultural (communicative and mediating), military country studies (informational and analytical), military and terminological (normative and codifying), linguistic and pedagogical (didactic and diagnostic) and linguistic and research (scientific and research) functions, which require a professional military level of philological bilingual competence of the performers" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2018, p. 6).

The military terminological activity of the departments and units of the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is recognized as normative and codifying is one of the components of the linguistic support of the troops (forces) which provides for "conducting military lexicographic work with the aim of further harmonizing Ukrainian military terminology with NATO military terminology" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2018, p. 8). This is a task of military translators. It

represents "terminological, normative, terminographic and lexicographical work related to normalization, codification and harmonization of military terminology, preparation of military terminological standards, establishment and update of an information database of standardized military terms, as well as compilation of glossaries and multilingual military dictionaries of various types" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2018, p. 11).

In 2017, as part of the implementation of a new system of defence planning based on the capabilities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Linguistic Research Department developed and implemented military standards VST 01.004.005-2017(01) "Strategic Planning for the Development of the Capabilities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Abbreviations" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2017a) and VST 01.004.006-2017(01) "Strategic Planning for the Development of the Capabilities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Terms and Definitions" (Ministry of Defence Ukraine, 2017b). The standards became the basis for developing a single list (catalogue) of the capabilities of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They were developed to promote a common understanding of the acronyms and terms used in NATO documents related to capabilities during defence planning and operational planning. The development and implementation of bilingual terminological standards ensures the organization of military terminology, and promotes its unified understanding and the formation of a single conceptual apparatus, thus ensuring the necessary level of compatibility between the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations in the process of preparing and conducting military operations.

Therefore, in the conditions of Russian armed aggression against Ukraine, Ukrainian military legislation is trying to respond promptly to changes in society, to promote the development of a unified system of military terms, and to adapt the national legislation of Ukraine to the rules of EU law. Despite the fact that the military terminology of some normative legal acts still requires improvement and purification from Russified terms, today the authorities, lawyers, and linguists are united in their desire to de-Sovietize Ukrainian legislation. The project Thesaurus "Eurovoc" on the establishment of terminological databases of Ukrainian legislation testified to the close cooperation of linguists and legislators that made its practical implementation possible as it is extremely important, relevant and in demand today. Military terminological activity in the field of standardization of Ukrainian military terminology, aimed at its further harmonization with the military terminology of NATO, is no less important and has already partially demonstrated significant results.

3 Media discourse of Ukraine: recommendations and reservations on the use of terms

Russia's large-scale armed aggression against Ukraine has somewhat changed the terminological lexicon. New realities have appeared that did not exist before. As noted by the Commission on Journalistic Ethics in Ukraine, Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine and the declaration of martial law became a serious challenge for Ukrainian

journalists, as they "had no experience covering hostilities and other topics related to war. (...) The correct use of terminology deserves special attention – after all, the audience perceives news in different ways" (Commission on Journalistic Ethics, 2022).

3.1 Problem: inconsistent use of military terminology in the media and the problem of compliance with journalistic standards

In order to find out how the Ukrainian media covers the war in the east of Ukraine and its consequences, in 2016 the non-governmental organization "Media Detector" together with the coordinator of the OSCE projects in Ukraine conducted a study and prepared a special report (Bezkorovaina et al., 2016) on the problem of using terminology and emotionally-coloured and neutral vocabulary to designate the parties to the conflict.

- (15) All journalists who took part in the research (with a few exceptions) noted that covering the conflict and related topics was accompanied by extremely high emotional tension for them. Many journalists talked about their experience in terms of 'taking it personally' because the problems of the heroes they had interviewed touched their hearts as well as the painful topic of war in general (Bezkorovaina et al., 2016, p. 17).

When thinking about professional standards, most journalists emphasize that "journalists should (...) be restrained and not incite the audience" (Bezkorovaina et al., 2016, p. 19), and therefore use classic terms that have entered the lexicon of the ATO (for example, *separatists/ uk сепаратисти* to designate local residents who have taken up arms, *terrorist/ uk терорист* to designate a local resident with a weapon who shoots, since he is already aggressive and waging a violent battle, as well as other examples) (Bezkorovaina et al., 2016, p. 18-19).

The Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine V. Chernysh in 2019 noted that

- (16) "Ukrainian media is saturated with various concepts, opinions and assessments, sometimes diametrically opposed. (...) This complicates the understanding of the situation both in the country and by our international partners. And it also creates fertile ground for hostile informational influences. That is why the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine decided to initiate a manual that would be helpful in the work of journalists, public figures, civil servants, and even politicians" (Dutsyk et al., 2019, p. 3).

This is the manual "ABC. Armed conflict in terms" [АБВ. Збройний конфлікт в термінах] written under the auspices of the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons (Dutsyk et al., 2019), which

- (17) " (...) contains an explanation of the terminological base of international humanitarian law, but it also includes new terminology regarding armed conflict and Russian military aggression contained in Ukrainian legislation that was already being coined after 2014" (Dutsyk et al., 2019, p. 3).

The special value of this guide lies in the fact that it traces the correlations of definitions and usage of 105 terms in Ukrainian legislation and international law, as well as recording typical mistakes made by the mass media (recommendations are given to avoid them), in particular: incorrect use of the term *refugees*/ ук біженці, which is confused with the term *internally displaced persons*/ ук внутрішньо переміщені особи to designate persons who moved across the country after the beginning of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine in 2014; confusing the terms *shelling*/ ук обстріл and *bombing*/ ук бомбардування, *military offences*/ ук військові злочини and *war crimes*/ ук воєнні злочини, as well as other similar examples.

3.2 Problem: special research of military terminology by media specialists, its proper use in the news in correlation with the problem of stylistic use of military slang

The head of the Commission on Journalistic Ethics in Ukraine, A. Kulykov, in one of the interviews emphasized the need for journalists preparing material about the war to master military terminology. After all, the adequate coverage of events, and therefore, the truthful presentation of information to a mass audience, depends on whether the journalist knows the meaning of a certain military term. Not all terms, which seem to be clear to the public, correspond to reality. A. Kulykov (a well-known journalist in Ukraine), draws attention to the misleading nature of some terms, e.g. *to take control over* [a settlement]/ ук взяти під контроль [населений пункт] means "to approach a settlement at such a distance from which it can be completely covered by fire", and not "restoration of Ukrainian administration [in the settlement]". It is important to distinguish the meaning of terms, for example, *fierce battle*/ ук запеклий бій and *heavy battle*/ ук тяжкий бій, *fascists*/ ук фашисти and *russists*/ ук рашисти, as well as to use them correctly in press releases. A. Kulykov pays attention to stylistic techniques used in the media, in particular: depersonalization of the enemy by using metaphors, for example, *ukrops* / ук укропи "grass" (a term used in the Russian media since 2014), *cotton wool* / ук вата "a mass of loosely intertwined fibers that burns well" (a term used in the Ukrainian media for the invaders); and giving a positive connotation, for example, the term *cyborgs*/ ук кіборги ("Ukrainian soldiers — defenders of the Donetsk airport during the war in eastern Ukraine") (Zhalai et al., 2018, p. 27), which was used by Russian propaganda with a negative connotation to emphasize the "the callousness of the Ukrainian defenders of the Donetsk airport" (Synhivska, 2022).

One of the attempts to collect such words on the official website of the information agency of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine "АрміяINFORM" (established in December 2018) became a visual "Mini-dictionary of military slang"¹², for example: *bekha*/ ук беха, *boomer*/ ук бумер "infantry combat vehicle", *zelenka*/ ук зеленка "thickets, bushes, forest area", *turtle*/ ук черепаха "tank T-34", *fly*/ ук муха "manual anti-tank grenade launcher" (АрміяINFORM, 2019).

¹²Here we present it in the original, since it is military vocabulary that Ukrainian soldiers use in conversations, and therefore it is difficult to find an English equivalent for it.

3.3 Problem: incorrect use of military terminology in mass media, and its possible solution by developing recommendations for media professionals

Coverage of certain events in the mass media sometimes causes incorrect use of terminology, which, especially in war coverage, does not fully reflect reality. Therefore, in January 2021, the Office of Strategic Communications of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine published a list of terms recommended for use in the media covering the war in Donbas on the website of the Interfax-Ukraine news agency. The terms *temporarily occupied territories in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions*/ *ук тимчасово окуповані території в Донецькій і Луганській областях* and *the occupied part of Donbas*/ *ук окупована частина Донбасу* are proposed to be used among them (incorrectly: *the territories of the self-proclaimed/so-called DPR/LPR* // *ук території самопроголошених так званих ДНР/ЛНР*). The message, as stated on the website, is about the development of a unified terminology that corresponds to reality, laws and international law, promotes a unified understanding of events, counteracts information threats and Russian propaganda, allows faster and more effective search for solutions to problems, and avoids conflicts (Interfax-Ukraine, 2021).

3.4 Problem: operational lexicographic codification of the terminology of Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine as used in the mass media

Mini-dictionaries of terminology to cover Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine with prescribed recommendations and warnings regarding the correct use of such terminology appeared on the website of the Institute of Mass Information in March 2022. The Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security together with the Institute of Mass Information recommended using the terms: *Russian-Ukrainian war*/ *ук російсько-українська війна*, *Russian-Ukrainian conflict*/ *ук російсько-український конфлікт*, or *Russian-Ukrainian confrontation*/ *ук російсько-українське протистояння* (incorrectly: *Ukrainian conflict*/ *ук український конфлікт*); a *large-scale Russian invasion*/ *ук широкомасштабне російське вторгнення*; *Kadyrivians*/ *ук кадирівці* (regarding those who fight on the side of the Russian Federation), *Chechens*/ *ук чеченці / чечени* (people who have been fighting against Russian invaders for the longest time in recent history, now fighting on the side of Ukraine), etc. (Institute of Mass Information, 2022).

In March, the Commission on Journalistic Ethics provided explanations and recommendations on its website regarding the semantic distinction and contextual use of some terms in the media during martial law enforcement (according to the legally established terminology). For example: *ук злочини проти людяності* та *ук злочини проти людства*¹³ (Commission on Journalistic Ethics, 2022) both having the same

¹³In the Ukrainian language, the term *ук злочини проти людства* used in the Ukrainian version of the "Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity" (General Assembly of the United Nations, 1968) and *ук злочини проти людяності* used in

equivalent in English - en *crimes against humanity*. Several recommendations for distinguishing some terms are also presented on the "Detector Media" website. T. Honchenko quotes the Center for Defence Strategies expert V. Kevliuk:

- (18) "The hostilities that had been going on in Ukraine for the previous eight years were often called a war, but formally it was the first ATO (Anti-terrorist operation) and then the JFO/ uk OOC (Joint forces operation). Now it's a war. This is how all our official bodies and the international community call the events that began on February 24, 2022. Synonyms can be armed aggression, invasion of Russia, full-scale invasion, etc. The word armed conflict should not be used. Because this term is usually used when there is a civil war or when some people or nations are fighting for independence and want to secede. In our case, two sovereign states (Russia and Ukraine) are at war with each other, so it is not an armed conflict, but rather a war. You should also not use the phrase military operation or special operation. Russia uses these names, because it is not as shameful to be a "state that conducts a military operation" as it is to be the state that started a war" (Honchenko, 2022).

Scientists of the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences set out to quickly fix the terminology of Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, which is used in the mass media. The "Terminological Dictionary of the Russian-Ukrainian War" (Eds. M.M. Sliusarevskyi and S.L. Chunikhina) appeared on the institute's website in April 2022. It became "the first attempt to reproduce the semantic space of the Russian-Ukrainian war" and its understanding by Ukrainian society through the arrangement of various meanings, terms, names, events, and symbols. The dictionary included:

- (1) terms and concepts describing the realities of war, for example: *territorial defence of Ukraine/ uk територіальна оборона України, war crime/ uk воєнний злочин, genocide/ uk геноцид, demilitarization/ uk демілітаризація, temporary emigration/ uk тимчасова еміграція, nuclear terrorism/ uk ядерний тероризм*;
- (2) oikonyms, terms formed from oikonyms, terms and concepts, for example: *Bucha/ uk Буча, Energodar/ uk Енергодар, blockaded Mariupol/ uk блокадний Маріуполь, Kyiv dam/ uk київська дамба*;
- (3) slang vocabulary, for example: *arta/ uk арта "artillery / gunners", desantura/ uk десантура "airborne troops"*;
- (4) ironic names and self-names, for example: *Banderivtsi/ uk бандерівці "ironic self-name of Ukrainian resistance forces, which uses cliché of enemy propaganda", Mordor/ uk мордор "an ironic name of the Russian Federation"*;
- (5) memes, for example: *Mariupol drama theater/ uk маріупольський драмтеатр, Mariupol maternity hospital/ uk маріупольський пологовий будинок, Mykolaiv zoo/ uk миколаївський зоопарк, Chornobayivka/ uk Чорнобайівка, tractor division (troops)/ uk тракторна дивізія (тракторні війська)*;
- (6) abbreviations, for example: *ARG/DRG = uk ДРГ "airborne reconnaissance groups", AFU/ZSU = uk ЗСУ "Armed Forces of Ukraine", PTSD = uk ПТСР "post-traumatic stress disorder"*;
- (7) metaphorical terms, for example: *orc/ uk орки "Russian troops who invaded Ukraine", Ghost of Kyiv/ uk привид Києва "legendary/ mythical fighter pilot who destroyed a record number of enemy aircraft while protecting the skies over Kyiv", Banderiv smuzi/ uk бандерівський смузі "homemade flammable mixture in a glass bottle" and others.*

the Ukrainian version of the "On the Ratification of the European Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1974).

A total amount of 111 lexical units are subdivided into four main categories: participants (parties) of the war; events and locations of the war being centers of the greatest emotional tension; psychological phenomena and psychological consequences of war; examples of spontaneous myth- and meme-making of Ukrainian society, which performs an autotherapeutic function. The authors call the dictionary a project "open to additions and content adjustments", consider it in demand for use in mass media and distribution through social networks, and also plan to develop it (Vasiutynskyi et al., 2022).

As proven by the examples above, in the conditions of Russian armed aggression against Ukraine, the Ukrainian media promoted the problem of the correct use of military terminology and the professional vocabulary of the military. On the one hand, media experts and journalists, in order to comply with professional standards, including journalistic ethics, are obliged to provide objective information using neutral military terminology. However, the emotional experience of military aggression against one's own country sometimes forces media representatives to use emotional vocabulary, including professional military and everyday conversational style, and in this way to express their attitude to the events and their own civil position. To avoid terminological discussions on this issue on the Internet media, officials, military experts, media experts, legislators and representatives of the Commission on Journalistic Ethics provide recommendations for both journalists and ordinary citizens regarding the correct use of military terminology. It is important that such recommendations are also agreed with linguists-terminologists, since journalists often make mistakes and violate their own terminological norms. The cooperation of the military, lawyers and journalists together with terminologists is especially in demand for the compilation of dictionaries of military terms. Such dictionaries are often compiled today by experts from other fields of knowledge, which is not academically acceptable.

4 Conclusions

Today, military terminology is quickly updated, developed and changed. Among the main reasons for such dynamics is Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic course and the usage of the military terminology of the NATO member states to denote the activities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. However, there are certain contradictions in the use of the military terminology and vocabulary of the Russian-Ukrainian war in legislative and media discourses:

- 1) the work has already begun on the normative regulation of the terminology of Russian armed aggression against Ukraine, many new laws have been adopted and changes have been made to the current legislative acts including new terms and definitions; however, there are still inconsistencies in terms definitions in Ukrainian legislation regarding some military terms;
- 2) it is necessary to harmonize the terms and definitions in terminological dictionaries with the corresponding articles of legislative acts of Ukraine and

- the international law, which involves close cooperation between military journalists, military personnel, lawyers, terminologists, and linguists, and the development of a normative dictionary of military terminology in the future; currently, the existing glossaries of the terms of the Russian-Ukrainian war are not compiled by specialists in the field of lexicography and military affairs, but by specialists in other fields; and as a result, the glossaries are not very precise;
- 3) the situation is further complicated by the calls to use only neutral terminology and vocabulary in the media, and to develop generally accepted standards in order to avoid incorrect and/or conflicting statements by journalists; but journalists cannot take a neutral stand when reporting the events and actively use military slang, professionalisms, newly-coined sayings and phrases of the war, which have already become popular, evoking sympathy among ordinary Ukrainians and symbolizing the Ukrainian realities of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Despite the difficulties in the processes of standardization and codification of Ukrainian military terminology, trends in its study are promising: the specifics of its functioning in social networks; peculiarities of the use of military vocabulary, military slang and professionalisms, and together with them, the study of the stylistics of military colloquial language; research on connotations in military terminology and vocabulary; establishment of online normative and thematic dictionaries of military affairs, which will codify and systematize the terminology of various branches of the military; development in the terminological database "Thesaurus Eurovoc" of microthesauruses in the field of military affairs with the possibility of identifying terms in the regulatory database of the European Union Eur-Lex; further standardization of Ukrainian military terminology and its harmonization with NATO standards and other documents; search for cross-language equivalents, in particular those used by the media of other European countries in the coverage of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, which requires close cooperation with European terminologists and journalists.

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