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# TERMINOLOGY OF ECOCIDE IN ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE AS A PROBLEM OF ENGLISH– UKRAINIAN TRANSLATION

The article examines the linguistic and communicative properties of the ecocide terminology system in the English environmental discourse and methods of translating such terms into Ukrainian. The article discusses the status of "ecocide" as a concept with potential legal implications. This article explores the efforts to create a cohesive system of terms that transcends language barriers, aiming to standardize key concepts within environmental discourse. However, the variability in translation approaches and the lack of universally accepted terms present challenges in achieving such uniformity. The article addresses the linguistic and cultural factors that impact the translation process, particularly the need to accurately convey the gravity and nuances of ecocide terms that carry weight in the English language. This process often involves translation transformations, where the meaning is preserved but the form may differ to fit linguistic conventions. By examining these transformations, the article illustrates the challenges and decisions involved in the translation of complex, culturally dependent terms from English into Ukrainian. The article examines specific transformations applied to environmental terms, especially those related to ecocide, as they are adapted for Ukrainian discourse. The article highlights the need for clear and accurate translations of ecocide terminology to promote a robust environmental discourse. It emphasizes that ecocide terminology is not only a matter of linguistic accuracy but also a tool for advancing environmental awareness, education, and policy on a global scale. The article calls for further research and collaboration in the field of environmental translation with the aim of developing a unified, effective vocabulary that can support environmental advocacy and action.

**Key words:** word building types of ecocide terms, nominative space of environmental discourse, ecological concepts, reproductive and adaptive tactics in the translation of ecocide terms, cross-cultural adaptation methods of transformational translation.

**Statement of the problem.** Today, ecology and the problems of environmental protection are one of the most popular topics of discussion in the Englishlanguage mass media, state and public organizations, everyday communication of English speakers, and are also the subject of numerous studies in the natural sciences and humanities. This, in its turn, causes the expansion of ecological vocabulary, the formation of a holistic environmental discourse of the English language and changes in its composition and content.

One of the key concepts that is becoming relevant in the modern environmental discourse is the concept of "ecocide", in particular the problems of translating the ecocide terminology in the environmental discourse, which is due to the growing international attention to environmental problems and the need to create an adequate toolkit for highlighting these issues in different languages. The translation of texts in the context of the subject of ecocide acquires acute social significance, helping to spread true information about the terrorist actions of russians throughout the world and to accumulate the efforts of civilized countries in the fight against russian aggression. In today's globalized world, terminology, especially related to ecocide, appears as an important means of communication to highlight environmental threats, legal regulation, and ethical aspects of nature protection. This vocabulary is new and specific, which causes difficulties when translating it into other languages, in particular into Ukrainian.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The current state of linguistic research devoted to the terminology system of ecocide in environmental discourse [5, p. 69] indicates the growing attention of researchers to the problem of translating environmental terms from English into Ukrainian.

In particular, attention is paid to the translation of the term "ecocide" as a key concept indicating large-scale environmental crimes and their legal consequences. I. O. Rozmaritsa emphasizes the insufficient development of the Ukrainian legal and scientific base for the exact definition of "ecocide", which complicates the adequate understanding of this concept [9, p. 15]. Considering the specificity of the English environmental discourse, in which the term "ecocide" has not only a scientific, but also a social and legal dimension, Ukrainian researchers emphasize the need to develop established translation approaches that would ensure accuracy and preserve the legal interpretation of the term.

Many modern researchers also highlight the importance of the context and the peculiarities of the adaptation of English environmental vocabulary to Ukrainian based on legal, cultural and social aspects [4, p. 100]. This indicates a tendency to search for better approaches that will help to preserve not only the formal, but also the semantic significance of terms. In this respect, the studies of V. V. Demetska, O. V. Butkevich, O. O. Zhikhareva, O. G. Lanovenko and others, regarding syntactic and semantic differences of terms, which are essential for maintaining translation equivalence, acquire significance.

In general, modern studies emphasize the difficulty of translating the terms of the environmental discourse, especially in the context of ecocide, as well as the need for a systematic approach to the formation of a unified terminology that would be understandable and acceptable both to Ukrainian scientists and to a wide audience.

**Task statement** consists in studying the linguistic and communicative properties of the ecocide terminology in the English environmental discourse and methods of translating such terms into Ukrainian.

**Outline of the main material of the study.** The term "ecocide" was introduced in 1970 at the Conference on War and National Responsibility in Washington. In 1972 at Stockholm Conference on the Environment, the Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, together with a member of the Indian National Congress and the leader of the Chinese delegation, proposed to recognize "ecocide" as an international crime. In 1973 Professor Richard Falk was the first to define the term "ecocide" as "a deliberate destruction of natural ecosystems, which has catastrophic consequences for biodiversity and the health of the planet as a whole" [13], who also suggested adding this definition to the UN International Convention.

According to Cambridge dictionary, ecocide is "destruction of the natural environment of an area, or very great damage to it" [12]. Oxford Learner's English Dictionary offers the following definition of the term: "the destruction of the natural environment, especially when this is deliberate" [16].

At the same time, the Criminal Code of Ukraine provides a more extended definition of the "ecocide" concept as the mass destruction of flora and fauna, poisoning of the atmosphere or water resources, as well as the commission of other actions that can cause an ecological disaster [6, p. 131]. Ecocide is a criminal offense under both Ukrainian and international law. According to the Criminal Code of Ukraine, it is punishable by imprisonment for a term of eight to fifteen years.

In international law, ecocide is perceived as an impact on the biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere of the Earth with the aim of changing their dynamics, composition or structure, impact on outer space, which can cause mass destruction of the Earth's spheres or other serious consequences.

A particularly severe form of ecocide is military ecocide, i.e. disruption of human habitat ecosystems as a result of hostilities that have a military and political purpose [7, p. 38].

The "ecocide" concept emphasizes the need for recognition among the international community of serious environmental crimes and the introduction of responsibility for their commission. Ecocide has become the object of attention both from environmental activists and within the framework of discussions regarding the legal recognition of environmental crimes. The idea is to make ecocide an international crime and make individuals or companies involved in ecocide accountable before an international court. Such an approach is aimed at protecting nature and emphasizing the importance of caring for ecosystems to preserve the planet for future generations.

The terminological system of ecocide which covers the naming and description of various natural and man-made disasters, includes a set of terms that allows considering this phenomenon from different points of view: legal, ecological, social and economic. Among the terms used to denote threats to the environment, we can distinguish: *deforestation*, *desertification, extinction, oil spill, global warming, Greenhouse effect, the nuclear meltdown, ozone layer depletion, volcanic eruptions, acid rain, ground water depletion.* 

Research and formation of an appropriate terminology system is an important step for the development of ecocide terminology and the creation of a reliable basis for scientific research, environmental education and policy decisions. Therefore, the analysis of the terminology of ecocide in the modern environmental discourse is important both for understanding the scale of the problem and for the formation of appropriate legislation aimed at preserving ecosystems and preventing ecocide.

The word building architecture of terminology of ecocide is characterized by the same principles as for commonly used units. Linguists offer the following classification of word building types of terms used to denote phenomena related to ecocide in environmental discourse [1, p. 132–135]:

1. **Root terms** that have a stable semantic basis and denote a certain concept within the environmental discourse. Such terms include basic concepts that directly reflect phenomena or processes related to ecocide. For example, such terms as *ecocide* and *ecology* are the main units indicating specific aspects of ecocide phenomena.

## 2. Derived terms:

**Prefix terms** are terms formed by adding prefixes (a-, bio-, aero-, agro, re-, over-, etc.) to root terms. Prefix formations often serve to create new concepts or to detail existing ones. For example: *anti-ecocide*, which indicates the concept of fighting against ecocide, or *post-ecocide*, which indicates the consequences that occur after ecocide. An example can also be the terms such as *biosphere; restoration; recovery; overfishing,* etc.

**Suffix terms** are terms formed with suffixes (-ate, -ness, -ed, -ing, -ty, -ism, -ant, -or, -er, -ic, -ify, -ive, -al, -ance, -ment, -ation, -age), which are added to the root terms. Suffix formations can denote phenomena that are parts or consequences of ecocide. For example, *ecocidality* can refer to the property of something to be capable of ecocide, or *ecologicalness* can refer to the features of an ecological situation, including through ecocide. An example can also be the terms such as *affected; flooding destruction; pollution; fertilize,* etc.

3. **Complex terms** that consist of several components and are written together or hyphenated and are often used in specific contexts to accurately describe phenomena. They can combine different aspects of ecocide, e.g.: *biodiversity domino-effect, plant-based, footprint, wastewater, biodegradable,* etc.

4. **Phrasal terms**, which include two fully meaningful words (adjectives, verbs, nouns or other parts of speech), mainly belong to the following structural types:

N + N, e.g.: *irrigation system, greenhouse gas, acid rain, Greenhouse effect, ground water depletion, oil spill*, etc.;

A + N, e.g.: *ecological catastrophe, ecological devastation, local communities, environmental recovery,* etc.;

N + Prep + N, e.g.: *destruction of ecosystems, extent of the damage, overflow of wastewater,* etc.;

Past Participle + N, e.g.: *recognized crime, human-created disaster*, etc.;

Present Participle + N, e.g.: *mining activities, whopping surface,* etc.

5. Abbreviated terms, acronyms representing specific environmental entities or concepts, such as, e.g.: *EPAIU* (Environmental Protection Agency of a specific unit or organization); *HPP* (Hydro Power Plant).

Analysis of the nominative space of modern English environmental discourse demonstrates important trends in the development of ecocide terminology and communicative strategies related to environmental issues. The terminological system of ecocide in the English environmental discourse can be classified into different thematic categories, which reflects the diversity of environmental problems and aspects. Conventionally, they can be divided into certain categories that are most often found in popular science and scientific literature [3, p. 232–233].

1. **General ecological concepts**, e.g.: *environment*, *ecology*, *ecosystem*, *biosphere*, *sustainability*, etc.;

2. **Natural resources**, e.g.: *natural resources*, *water resources*, *energy resources*, *oil supplies*, etc.;

3. Environmental technologies, e.g.: critical infrastructure, restoration and reconstruction, renewable energy, industrial wastewater, management system, etc.;

4. **Preservation of biodiversity**, e.g.: *biodiversity*, *animal species*, *regional habitats*, *protection organizations*, *indigenous habitats*, *sustainable development*, etc.;

5. **Environmental policy**, e.g.: *environmental policy*, *environmental law*, *environmental control*, *green recovery*, *sustainable development*, etc.;

6. **Environmental problems**, e.g.: *soil erosion, deforestation, hazardous substances, flooding*, etc.;

7. **Climate change**, e.g.: *climate change*, *global warming*, *greenhouse gas*, *climate change mitigation*, etc.;

8. **Environmental organizations**, e.g.: *environmental protection organizations, Ukrainian environment ministry*, etc..

Thus, the website of the IFRC (The International Federation of Red Cross) provides the following thematic classification of environmental disasters [14]:

1) **geophysical**: a hazard originating from solid earth, e.g.: *earthquakes, landslides* and *volcanic activity,* etc.;

2) **hydrological**: caused by the occurrence, movement and distribution of water on earth, e.g.: *floods* and *avalanches*, etc.;

3) **climatological**: relating to the climate, e.g.: *droughts* and *wildfires*, etc.;

4) **meteorological**: relating to weather conditions, e.g.: *cyclones* and *storms*, etc.;

5) **biological**: caused by exposure to living organisms and their toxic substances or diseases they may carry, e.g.: *disease epidemics and insect / animal plagues*, etc.;

6) **man-made and technological hazards**: are caused by humans and occur in or close to human settlements. They include *complex emergencies, conflicts, industrial accidents, transport accidents, environmental degradation* and *pollution,* etc.

Another thematic classification makes it possible to find out the semantic features of the terms of the environmental discourse according to three parameters [8]:

1) **nature-oriented**, e.g.: *biosphere*, *biodiversity*, *ecosystem*, etc.;

2) **techno-oriented**, e.g.: *industrial fishing*, *nuclear disaster, industrial wastewater*, etc.;

3) **socially oriented**, e.g.: *socio-environmental justice*, *human species*, *local communities*, etc.

Thus, the analysis of the semantic features of the terms of the environmental discourse can be carried out by using different approaches to their thematic classification, each of which focuses on certain aspects of ecological concepts. It is important to note that the thematic classification of environmental terms is conditional, considering the rapid integration of new terms from other fields and the change in the meaning of already existing terms of the English environmental discourse, because many terms can belong to several categories at the same time.

In view of the thematic classifications of the terms of the environmental discourse, it is possible to propose several directions for further research of the terminology of ecocide and, in particular, the development of translation approaches in the context of the English-Ukrainian translation of environmental terms:

1. Expansion of thematic subcategories for ecological terms within the already existing thematic groups, which will allow to more accurately determine the context in which the terms are used and to select appropriate methods of their translation.

- Classification by type of environmental threats and phenomena in which terms are divided depending on the type of specific environmental problems they denote. This group includes terms related to climate change, e.g.: global warming, greenhouse effect, etc.; pollution, e.g.: air pollution, water contamination, etc.; destruction of natural environments, e.g.: deforestation, habitat destruction, etc.

- Classification by processes and consequences in which the terms are structured according to the processes that occur in nature and the consequences they cause. Here we can single out terms that describe consequences, e.g.: *biodiversity loss, species extinction, land degradation*, etc. and processes, e.g.: *ocean acidification, desertification*, etc.

- Classification by the level of influence and scale of the problem in which terms are differentiated by the scale of influence, that is, by whether the problem concerns the global level, e.g.: *climate change, global warming*, etc. or local ecosystems and regional features, e.g.: *urban pollution, local biodiversity loss*, etc.

- Classification by methods of solutions and protection which covers terms related to methods of environmental protection and emphasizes methods of reducing negative impact and protecting nature, e.g.: sustainable development, carbon footprint reduction, conservation efforts, etc.

- Classification according to ethical and legal aspects in which terms related to moral and legal responsibility for nature conservation are structured, e.g.: ecocide, environmental rights, environmental ethics, etc.

Such a multi-vector approach helps to reveal relationships between terms, to trace how they reflect different aspects of environmental problems and solutions, and also contributes to a better understanding of the ways in which terms influence the formation of environmental consciousness in society. Therefore, by classifying terms by types of environmental threats, processes and consequences, level of impact, methods of protection, or ethical aspects, we can comprehensively analyse the environmental terminology system and find out how it functions in the modern communicative space.

2. Development of a universal translation technique. The application of translation transformations in the translation of the terms of the English environmental discourse is necessary to achieve the adequacy and equivalence of the translation, because the terms of this discourse often have a specific semantic significance, which may vary depending on the cultural and linguistic context.

First of all, translation difficulties may arise due to the ambiguity of English terms. This is due to the peculiarities of the English language, which is concise in its lexical structure and has specific features of word formation. In particular, the formation of a new word often occurs in a non-morphological way, when the lexeme only acquires a new meaning. Therefore, many English terms have several meanings in the Ukrainian language, often far from each other (for example, the English word "soil" in Ukrainian can be translated as «грунт», «земля», «бруд», «країна», «бруднити», etc.). As a result, the translation of polysemantic words depends entirely on the context, e.g.: *poor soil* – бідний грунт, *native soil* – материк.

We propose to create a specialized methodology for the translation of ecocide terms, which takes into account different translation options depending on the context of use (scientific, legal, journalistic) with the involvement of reproductive tactics implemented through transcoding (transcription, transliteration, zero transcoding, practical transcription, loan translation) and translation transformations: lexical-grammatical (morphological substitution. transposition, total reorganisation, antonymic translation) and lexicalsemantic (differentiation, modulation, generalization, concretization), focused on the transfer of content and adaptive tactics of transformational translation, which involves the use of lexical-grammatical transformations of explication, elimination, and amplification and will allow translators to choose the most adequate options, preserving the accuracy and clarity of ecological concepts and compliance with the original [2; 11].

Let's consider an example of the implementation of reproductive and adaptive tactics in the reproduction of environmental terms:

(1) Climate change significantly impacts (2) biodiversity, particularly in (3) fragile ecosystems. Species that cannot adapt to rising temperatures and (4) shifting habitats are at high risk of extinction. Adaptation mechanisms, such as (5) phenological shifts and (6) habitat migration, are (7) vital for the survival of many species, especially those with limited dispersal capabilities. For instance, keystone species play a crucial role in maintaining (8) ecosystem balance, and their decline can trigger cascading effects that disrupt ecological stability. [15] – (1) Зміна клімату суттєво впливає на (2) біорізноманіття, особливо у (3) вразливих екосистемах. Види, які не можуть адаптуватися до підвищення температур і (4) зміни середовища існування, опиняються під загрозою вимирання. Механізми адаптації, такі як (5) фенологічні зрушення та (6) міграція середовища існування, є (7) життєво важливими для виживання багатьох видів, особливо тих, що мають обмежені здатності до поширення. Наприклад, ключові види відіграють важливу роль у підтримці (8) екологічного балансу, і їх зникнення може спричинити каскадні ефекти, які порушують екологічну стабільність.

The terminological unit (2) *biodiversity* was reproduced by using **loan translation** (2) біорізноманіття, since the form and content correspond to one of the dictionary meanings of the original lexical unit «біорізноманіття», which allows the term to be preserved without additional changes. When reproducing the terminological phrase (5) *phenological shifts* as (5) фенологічні зрушення, the **transliteration** of the lexical unit *phenological* was used, since the original word was transferred in accordance with the rules of the Ukrainian language, preserving the scientific meaning of the term. This allows you to preserve the accuracy of the meaning, while adapting the term to the Ukrainian linguistic context.

The terminological phrase (3) *fragile ecosystems* is reproduced by using the lexical-semantic transformation of **modulation** (3) вразливі екосистеми, which consists in replacing the dictionary equivalent with a contextual one that is logically related to the original word and **generalization**, since «вразливі» has a slightly broader meaning than the original unit *fragile* ("easily broken or destroyed, but accurately reflects the meaning of the original" [17]). The lexical unit *ecosystem* was reproduced by **transliteration**.

When reproducing the terminological units (1) *climate change*, (6) *habitat migration*, the lexical-grammatical transformation of **transposition** (1) зміна клімату, (6) міграція середовища існування was applied, which consists in a structural change in the sequence of the original units within the word combination.

The terminological phrase (8) *ecosystem balance* is reproduced with the help of a lexical-grammatical transformation of **transposition** (8) екологічного балансу, since the order of words has been changed to preserve fluency in the Ukrainian text and the **morphological replacement** of the lexical unit *ecosystem*, since part of speech has changed from the noun to adjective «екологічного» and **concretization**, because the meaning of the original unit *(ecosystem:* "the complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit" [17]) is wider than in the translation *(екологія:* «взаємо-відношення між організмом і оточуючим середовищем» [10]).

When reproducing the terminological expression (7) *vital for the survival of many species*, the lexicalgrammatical transformation of **amplification** was applied, since the word (7) життєво важливими was added to emphasize the importance of adaptation mechanisms for survival.

Thus, the translation analysis demonstrates that reproductive tactics realized by loan translation and by lexical-semantic transformations of modulation, concretization and generalization is highly productive as it allows translators to adapt the text to language norms and cultural context, ensuring correct perception and preservation of content. Each of these transformations helps to avoid a literal translation that may sound unnatural or even change the meaning in the target language. Given the differences in the grammatical and syntactic structure of the English and Ukrainian languages, lexical-grammatical transformations are also often used during translation, among which transposition and morphological substitution play a significant role.

The use of adaptive tactics in the process of translation of ecocide terminology is not effective, since the accuracy of content transmission is important in scientific and technical translation. Translators usually stick to established terms that are already used in the language to avoid ambiguity and maintain a standardized terminology.

3. Application of computer technologies to automate the translation of ecocide terminology. The development of software based on large terminological databases or translation platforms (SDL Trados, MemoQ) that store numerous terms with detailed definitions and examples of use for automatic translation, in particular in the field of ecocide, will make it possible to effectively use already developed terms and help translators in work on large volumes of texts. They can be configured to use specialized terms in the field of ecology and ecocide, which allows to maintain terminological consistency when translating large texts. For example, when the translator works with a text containing the term "anti-ecocide measures", the program automatically substitutes the correct translation «антиекоцидні заходи» if this term is already in the system memory. It can also contribute to the creation of a common terminological base for translators and researchers.

The development of online resources or dictionaries for environmental terminology, particularly in the context of ecocide, can facilitate the work of translators. Such resources can be integrated with automatic translation systems or serve as sources for translators working on environmental texts. For example: IATE (Interactive Terminology for Europe) is a European platform for terminological resources that may include terms related to ecocide. Translators can use such a database to check terms and maintain consistency in translations.

4. Implementation of cross-cultural adaptation methods in the translation of ecocide terms. Since environmental problems can be perceived differently in different countries, it is important to consider cultural differences when translating terms, particularly in legal and legal contexts. When translating ecocide terms into the Ukrainian language, the terms should be adapted to culture and social realities, the specifics of ecological disasters that occur in Ukraine should be considered, as well as circumstances that may be related to the geopolitical situation, for example, war and its impact on nature.

Localization of ecocide terms involves adapting the terms to specific local conditions, such as natural, social, and political factors that influence the perception of environmental disasters. Taking local realities into account is important, as different countries have different experiences and levels of perception of environmental threats. In Ukraine, for example, where the issue of environmental protection in wartime is actively discussed, the localized translation of the term "eco-terrorism" can acquire additional meaning, including wars accompanied by environmental consequences.

**Conclusions.** Thus, the improvement of approaches to the translation of the ecocide terminology system is important for ensuring the accuracy and adequacy of translations in the global environmental discourse, as well as for the formation of a single terminological space that meets the needs of the Ukrainian language.

In the context of environmental discourse, the term "ecocide" is important for understanding global environmental problems arising from anthropogenic impact on nature. However, due to the lack of a direct analogue in some languages, in particular Ukrainian, difficulties arise when translating the ecocide terminology from English, which leads to different interpretations and variability. For an accurate and adequate translation, it is necessary to consider not only the lexical meaning of the term, but also the cultural and social aspects that determine the specifics of the ecological situation in different countries.

The problem of the English-Ukrainian translation of the ecocide terminology is an important aspect of the development of the environmental discourse in Ukraine. Linguistic, ecological and sociocultural studies should be combined to effectively solve the problem of translating the ecocide terminology. This will help to create a comprehensive model for translation that covers not only linguistic but also ecological aspects.

Further research in this field will allow not only to create a more accurate term system, but also contribute to the development of environmental awareness and the formation of international cooperation in the fight against global environmental threats.

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## Бойко Я. В. ТЕРМІНОСИСТЕМА ЕКОЦИДУ В ЕКОЛОГІЧНОМУ ДИСКУРСІ ЯК ПРОБЛЕМА АНГЛІЙСЬКО-УКРАЇНСЬКОГО ПЕРЕКЛАДУ

У статті досліджено лінгвістичні та комунікативні властивості терміносистеми екоциду в англійськомовному екологічному дискурсі та способи перекладу таких термінів українською мовою. У статті обговорюється статус «екоциду» як поняття з потенційними правовими наслідками. У цій статті досліджуються спроби створити цілісну систему термінів, яка долає мовні бар'єри, з метою стандартизації ключових понять в екологічному дискурсі. Варіативність підходів до перекладу та відсутність загальноприйнятих термінів створюють проблеми для досягнення такої одноманітності. У статті розглядаються лінгвістичні та культурні чинники, які впливають на процес перекладу, зокрема необхідність точно передати нюанси екоцидних термінів, які мають вагу в англійській мові. Цей процес часто включає трансформації перекладу, де значення зберігається, але форма може відрізнятися відповідно до мовних умов. Досліджуючи ці трансформації, стаття ілюструє проблеми та рішення, пов'язані з перекладом складних, культурно зумовлених термінів з англійської на українську. У статті розглядаються специфічні перекладацькі трансформації екологічних термінів, особливо тих, що стосуються екоциду, оскільки вони адаптовані для українського дискурсу. У статті наголошується на необхідності чітких і точних перекладів термінології екоциду для сприяння зрозумілому екологічному дискурсу. Підкреслюється, що екологічна термінологія – це не лише питання лінгвістичної точності, але й інструмент для просування екологічної свідомості, освіти та політики в глобальному масштабі. Стаття закликає до подальших досліджень і співпраці в галузі екологічного перекладу з метою розробки єдиного, ефективного словника, який може підтримувати екологічну адвокацію та дії.

**Ключові слова:** типи словотворення екоцидних термінів, номінативний простір екологічного *дискурсу, екологічні концепти, репродуктивні та адаптивні тактики перекладу екоцидних термінів, кроскультурні адаптаційні методи трансформаційного перекладу.*