

# SOURCE DOMAIN OF METAPHORICAL TERMINOLOGY IN CORPUS HIPPOCRATICUM AND CORPUS GALENICUM

Ieva Fībiga  
Lecturer, PhD cand.  
RSU Language Center  
39276



## INTRODUCTION

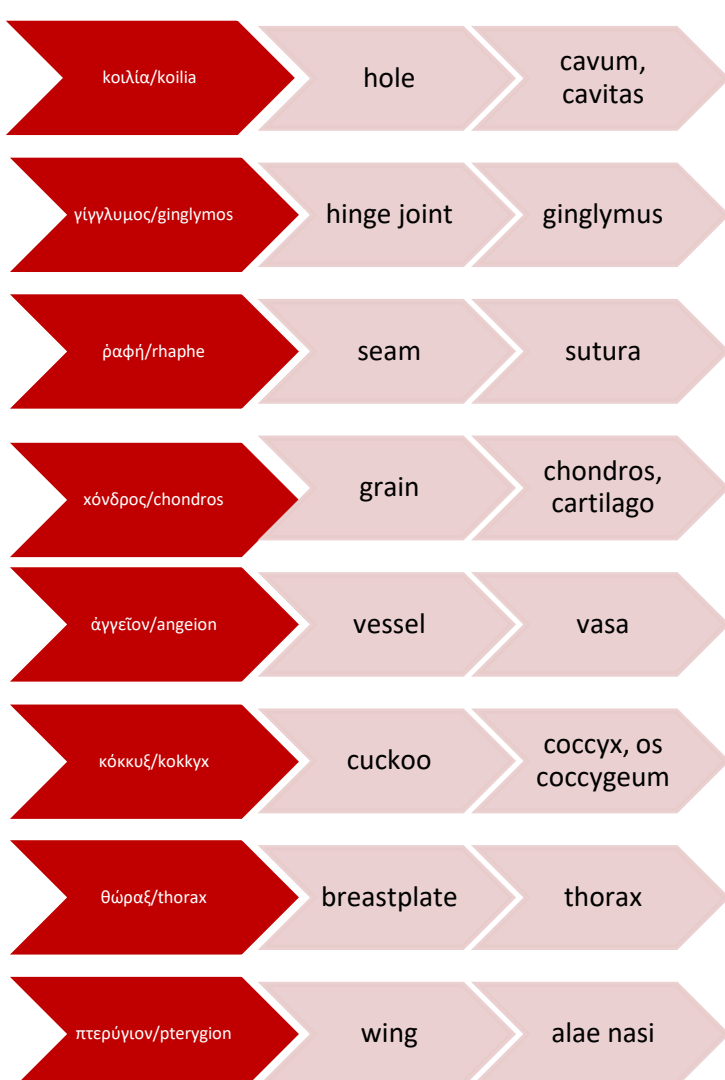
Terminology and its proper application is essential for communication in any specialist field nowadays, which is no different for medicine and pharmacy. There are two collections of medical texts from the antiquity – *Corpus Hippocraticum* (CH) attributed to Hippocrates, and *Corpus Galenicum* (CG) attributed to Galen – which played a critical role in the development of medicine and pharmacy as fields of study. Just as in other fields of Greek *τέχναι/technai* ‘arts’ a special terminology was created. In these two collections we trace the development of anatomical, clinical, and pharmaceutical terminology originating from Greek roots, prefixes and suffixes.

## AIM OF THE PAPER

This paper deals with the question of **how this particular terminology was created**. One of the answers lays in metaphors. From *Poetics* by Aristotle it is known that metaphors can give objects a name that originally belongs to something else. Metaphors are considered successful when they render things vividly visible to one’s inner eye, and Aristotle calls these *πρὸ ὀμμάτων/pro ommaton* ‘before the eyes’. These two aspects can be observed in the terminology of these medical collections.

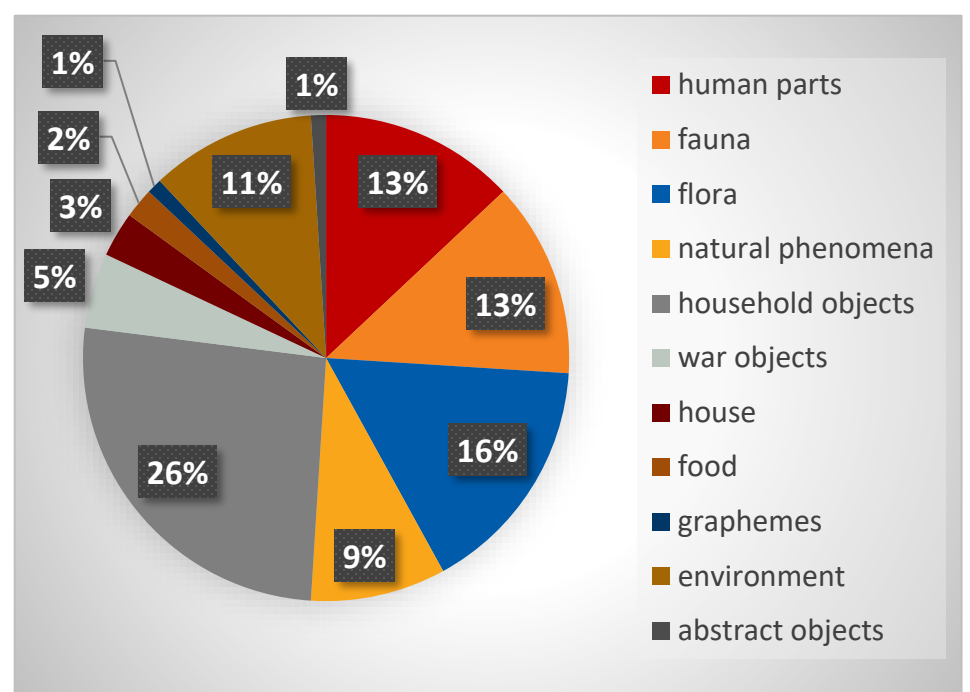
Examples for the paper are chosen from a treatise *Elementary Course on Bones* (*Περὶ ὀστέων τοῖς εἰσαγομένοις/Peri oston tois eisagomenois*) which is one of 110 treatises of CG. The treatise is considered the only anatomical work from the antiquity based on human material. Although human dissection was taboo in the antiquity and therefore anatomical knowledge was incomplete, Galen had access to human bones. This means he discovered what other physicians before him didn’t know about, which lead to the formation of terminology.

## EXAMPLES (Greek-English-Latin Med Term)



## RESULTS (CH et CG)

There are 11 lexical-semantic groups of source domain observed in the collections: 1) human parts (13%), 2) fauna (13%), 3) flora (16%), 4) natural phenomena (9%), 5) household objects (26%), 6) war objects (5%), 7) house (3%), 8) food (2%), 9) graphemes (1%), 10) environment (11%), and 11) abstract objects (1%). Words from these groups of source domain are transferred by metaphor to medicine and used as terms.



## CONCLUSIONS

The largest source domain is domestic life – it comprises about one third of the terms in the research collection, and most of them are anatomical. The second largest source domain is flora, which is also used for anatomical term derivation. The observable, known, and understandable aspects of domestic life and flora are transferred to the shapes and structures of the organism as well as processes in a diseased organism, thus forming metaphorical anatomical terminology. Next follow the categories of fauna, human characteristics, and environment – these source domains produce both anatomical and clinical terms. Here, attributes inherent to humans, animals, and the environment are transferred to the shapes and structures of the organism as well as processes in a diseased organism, thus forming metaphorical anatomical and clinical terminology. The source domain with the narrowest scope is natural phenomena and it is present in the derivation of clinical terms. This source domain is based on one of the four elements of the humoral theory, and it is most productive in the development of clinical terms – naming diseases. Processes in a diseased organism can be difficult to understand as they are more indirect and unclear in comparison to the form and structure of the healthy organism. Consequently, natural phenomena that, unlike phenomena of domestic life and flora, are intangible, are used as a source in metaphorical clinical terminology. The two most narrow source domains are military and written symbols, and both serve as the basis for anatomical terms. Both domains are specific and easy to understand, and when transferred to the shape and structure of the organism, create metaphorical anatomical terminology.