

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE TRANSLATION OF NEOLOGISMS

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Abstract: This article discusses the possible problems in translating neologisms. Neologisms are the new words which enter the language vocabulary recently. These words are sometimes difficult to translate into the target language due to some factors. This article shows some of these factors and ways of translation.

Key words: translation, neologisms, literary, meaning, expression.

As it is known, translation is a kind of moral, cultural and spiritual wealth and activity of human. It goes back down to ancient history. It always played a significant role in the cultural history of nations and the world culture on the whole.

In our days translation activity obtained unprecedented scope thanks to the increased international contacts. This fact allows some foreign authors writing about the role of translation to call our century “the age of translation”⁸⁶. True is the fact that translation attracted attention of writers and scholars since the old times and were evolved principal considerations which were all shaped in the normative translation concept. Nowadays this interest has been increased with a new force and there appeared necessity to systematize and generalize scientifically the result of the experiences accumulated in this sphere.

In modern philology a new theoretical field of science began to develop as a special discipline about the translation named as “theory of translation” and “science

⁸⁶ Konurbaev M., Shveitser A. D. “Theory and practice of translation” Moscow 2000, p. 162

of translation”. Along with the names mentioned above there were created specific terms in English for more exact indication of this field of philological science, “translatology”⁸⁷. The occurrence of these terms and notions testifies to the fact that the sphere of questions has gained status of definite sphere of science is just the translation itself.

Naturally, in translation the role of language is just the same which it has always performed - the most important means of human communication.

The art of translation is as old as written literature. Etymologically, translation is carrying across or bringing across. As Retsker Y.I. pointed out that “translation is the action of interpretation of the meaning of a text, and subsequent production of an equivalent text, that communicates the same message in another language.”⁸⁸ English poet and translator John Dryden wrote: “when words appear... literally graceful, it was an injury to the author that they should be changed. But since... what is beautiful in one language is often barbarous, may sometimes nonsense, in another, it would be unreasonable to limit a translator to the narrow compass of his author’s words: ‘tis enough if he chooses out some expression which does not vitiate the sense.”⁸⁹

The special role of the translator in society was well described in an essay, published in 1803, by Ignacy Krasicki: “Translation... is in fact an art both estimable and very difficult, and therefore is not the labor and portion of common minds; it should be practiced by those who are themselves capable of being actors, when they see greater use in translating the works of others than in their own works, and hold higher than their own glory the service that they render to their country.”⁹⁰ From the point of view of Nida E.A.: “translation consists of producing in the target language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, firstly with respect to meaning and secondly with respect to style.”⁹¹

⁸⁷ Cacciare C. “The place of idioms in a literal and metaphorical world” Hillsdale 1993, p. 38

⁸⁸ Рецкер Я.И. Учебное пособие по переводу с английского языка на русский. Москва 1981г.,p. 5

⁸⁹ Dryden J. “Poetry and its translation” London 1683, p.44

⁹⁰ Krasicki I. “Poland’s La Fontaine” Warsaw 1803, p.20

⁹¹ Nida E.A. “Toward a science of translating” Leiden 1964, p.19

According to Komissarov V.N., “the translation process fluctuates passing from formal inter-language transformations to the domain of conceptual interrelations. Many people believe that translation is an easy job and all translator has to do is to change words from the source text into the equivalent words of a target text. However, this is not true since some phrases, if translated literally, would make no sense. Translation is a very complicated process which has to consider many factors like the genre and the style of the original text, the translator’s competence, the timeline allocated to the project and many more. Like any other translation it should convey the meaning and the music of the source language.”⁹²

That is why the task of the translator is not only to transfer meaning of a word or a set expression, but also to inform its figurativeness and expressiveness.

During the investigation about how the translation may be implemented in social life, Shveitser A.D. comes to the following conclusion⁹³:

1. from one language into another non – kindred languages closely related;
2. from one literary language into its dialect or vice-versa;
3. from the ancient form of language into the present state of the same language.

In translation there are always two texts. The first is the original text which is created irrespective of the other; the second text is created on the basis of the first with the help of certain operations – interlinguistic transformations. The first text is called the text of the original, the second – the text of translation. The language which the original text is written in is called the source language, the language into which the translation is done is called the target language.⁹⁴

The translation techniques have been thoroughly described in translation theory. We assume, that the English neologisms may be translated by means of:

1. Equivalent - Russian neologism coinciding with the English in meaning and in imagery

⁹² Комиссаров В.Н. Пособие по переводу Москва 1960г., р. 9

⁹³ Швейцер А.Д. Теория перевода. Статус, проблемы, аспекты. Москва 1988г., р. 69-71

⁹⁴ Левицкая Т.Р., Фитерман А.М. Пособие по переводу с английского на русский. Москва 1973г., р. 22-28

2. Analogue-a set Russian neologism that is equivalent to the English in meaning but differs completely or partially in its imagery.

3. Descriptive translation-translation by conveying the meaning of the English expression with a free neologism. Descriptive translations are used when no equivalent or analogue is available in Russian.

4. Antonymic translation-conveying the meaning of a negative construction by means of a positive construction or vice versa.

5. Calque or loan translation-this method is used when the author wishes to stress the imagery used in the English neologism or when the neologism cannot be rendered in any other way .

6. Combined translation-in cases when the Russian analogue does not fully convey the meaning of the English expression or has a different specific coloring of a place or time, we give a loan translation, followed by descriptive rendering and the Russian analogue for comparison.

While allowing complete or partial loan translation in individual cases, the author rules out the literalism, i.e. unjustifiable literal rendering that distorts the meaning of the English neologism or runs counter to the norms of contemporary Russian.

The above mentioned forms of translation do not cover all the possible ways of rendering a neologism, depending on the context. The so-called occasional, situational equivalents used only for translating neologisms in one particular context, figure prominently in the dictionary. These equivalents are suitable only for rendering examples and cannot be used to convey the meaning of neologisms. The occasionality of the given equivalent is determined exclusively by the specific features of the context, while the same expression may be differently rendered in another context.

Neologisms are perhaps the non-literary and the professional translator's biggest problem. New objects and processes are continually created in technology. New ideas and variations on feelings come from the media. Terms from the social sciences, slang, dialect coming into the mainstream of language, transferred words, make up the rest. It has been stated that each language acquire 3000 new words, annually, but in fact,

neologisms can not be accurately quantified, since so many hover between acceptance and oblivion and many are short-lived, individual creations.

It becomes clear from that it makes difficulty for translator to translate neologisms without being aware of extra linguistic conditions. Knowing the language is not enough to find out the appropriate variant of the word in target language.

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