

Rendering the meaning of nonequivalent grammatical units in Ukrainian scientific-technical and belletristic texts

Grammatical phenomena and their translation is a large and complex part in philology and translation. Each time a translator faces a number of difficulties associated with correct interpretation of this or that grammatical phenomena of the original in the target language. Correlation of translation analyses reveals that besides a number of linguistic units in the original language which have a single or multiple meaning in the target language, there are grammatical units, for which no direct translation language matches. Units in the original language with no regular correspondences in the language of translation are called nonequivalent.

Nonequivalent grammatical units can be:

- 1). Separate morphological forms (gerund)
- 2). Parts of speech (article)
- 3). Syntactic structure (absolute construction) [4: 57].

Nonequivalent units appear only to one pair of languages analyzed.

Availability of nonequivalent units does not mean that their meaning can not be transmitted in translation, or that they are translated with less accuracy than units that have direct relevance. In the case of grammatical nonequivalence the choice of grammatical form in translation depends not only and not so much on the grammatical form of the original, much of its lexical content, or the nature and meaning of lexical units that will get a particular grammar content in the statement. Discerning in such construction is usually not an obstacle to establishing a relationship of equivalence between expressions in the original and in translation. The absence of similar language translation according to one or another form of the original language only means inability to translate using the same form or word-for-word translation.

Nonequivalence is often observed in the texts of scientific nature which have their peculiarities, lexical and grammatical. The language of science is governed by the purpose of the functional style of scientific text, which is to prove a hypothesis, to create some new concepts, to disclose the internal principles of existence, development, relations between different phenomena, etc. The language means used, therefore, are objective, precise, not emotional, and devoid of any individuality; there is a striving for the most generalized form of expressing [5: 147].

From the linguistic viewpoint peculiarities of scientific-technical translation are spread on its stylistics, grammar and lexics. The main task of scientific-technical translation is a possibly clear and precise bringing of the information to the reader. This can be achieved by logical interpretation of actual material without explicit emotionality. The style of scientific-technical materials can be identified as formally logical.

Scientific-technical texts reveal a great number of grammar peculiarities. The English language differs by figurativeness, which cannot be transferred to the Ukrainian language. The rushing to a multiplicity expresses in wide usage of gerundial, infinitive and subordinate clauses, abbreviations and conventional signs. The rushing to clearness discovers expression in application of grammar constructions of legible nature and lexical units, and also in the wide application of any nomenclature. The definition in the technical literature is used 3 times more often, than in art. In the technical literature Passive Voice is used 16 times more often, than in art [1: 117].

While translating some scientific-technical literature it is necessary to follow such succession of working on the text:

- 1). To read the whole text or its abstract and understand its general meaning.
- 2). To cut every complicated sentence into separate ones: complex sentence – into the main and subordinate one, compound – into simple sentences.
- 3). While analyzing complex sentences by their structure, it is recommended firstly to find predicates of the main and subordinate sentences.
- 4). In every sentence to identify the group of the predicate, then – the group of the subject and the object.
- 5). To start sentence translation from the group of the subject, then – translate the group of the predicate, object and adverbial modifier.
- 6). To find unfamiliar words in a dictionary, clearly understanding the part of speech of these words. It is very important not to keep the first meaning but to read all the meanings to the word. Context plays a significant role in choosing the right meaning.

In English declarative sentences there is a strong word order:

- a) subject
- b) predicate
- c) object
- d) adverbial modifier [2: 19].

But the greatest difficulties in translating such a literature are caused by rendering the meanings of nonequivalent grammatical units. This literature is full of grammatical units and words which have no direct form of expression or meaning in any other languages. In our case these languages are English and Ukrainian.

Nonequivalent grammatical units can be also observed in the texts of belletristic style. This style is very unique and has its own grammatical features. The belletristic style attracts linguists most of all because the authors of books

use the whole spectrum of expressive means and stylistic devices while creating their images. The function of the belletristic style is cognitive-aesthetic. The belletristic style consists of prose, drama and poetry. The language of emotive prose is fully diverse. Most of the books comprise the authors' speech and the speech of protagonists. The authors' speech embodies all stylistic embellishments which the structure of language tolerates. The speech of protagonists is just the reflection of people's natural communication which they carry out by means of the colloquial style.

The most distinctive feature of the language of poetry is its elevation. The imagery of poems and verses is profound, implicit and very touching. It is created by elevated words (poetic, highly literary, obsolete, obsolescent or barbaric), inversions, fresh and original tropes, repetitions and parallel constructions. The pragmatic effect of poetic works may be enhanced by perfected rhymes, metres, themes and stanzas.

Some attention should be paid to the grammatical meaning of words, which denotes categories of tense, state, gender, the ability to be transitive or intransitive. The category of gender can be hardly translated into English in all the details of its meaning [3: 154].

In the samples from English prose one can see how the transitive verbs are combined with prepositions, thus creating expressive meaning by such anomalous valence: *"She scolded the boys into their bathing suits"; "She dressed and lied her way out of the house" (J. Updike); "He nodded and let himself be gestured into silence" (D. Uhnam).*

The syntax of a sentence also contributes to the general meaning of this sentence. First of all syntax determines the style. The principal syntactical unit is a sentence, its structure, longitude, completion make the main discrepancy between oral and written speech. Written speech of the fiction literature is regulated by quite rigid norms that the author tries to follow. But the normative characteristics are enveloped with individual characteristics of the author and additional expressive, compositional, thematic and other tasks, stipulated by specific character of narration. For example, one-word elliptical sentences render the author's intention, modality, estimation and direct readers rigidly in their understanding: *"He struck his fist on the table. Hard" (S. Chaplin).*

As it was already mentioned, non-equivalence does not lead to impossibility of translation: it only means that there are no ready-made variants of translation and decision concerning the translation of these language units must be taken by a translator.

As we know, the translation is possible because a language unit has the same meaning in the source and target languages. In the case of nonequivalence the word has a meaning which is absent from the target language and to deliver this meaning a translator must base his translation on the meaning and notions, familiar to the recipient. A translator, however, can resort to a number of translation procedures to compensate:

1. Zero translation, or denial of transferring the meaning of any grammatical unit due to its redundancy. Grammatical meaning of the statement is often duplicated by other lexical or grammatical means. In such cases nonequivalent unit is not translated at all, that is, simply lowered:

Give me the calculations that you made yesterday. – *Надайте мені розрахунки, які ви зробили учора.*

By that time he had already made an English-language publication of this book. – *До того часу він вже видав цю книгу англійською мовою.*

In the first sentence the meaning of the definite article is duplicated by the sense of additional sentence, but in the second one the meaning of preceding, expressed by Past Perfect, is rendered by the words *"до того часу"* and *"вже"*.

2. Approximate translation means using in the translation grammatical unit of the target language, which in this context is partly associated with nonequivalent grammatical unit of the original language. Thus, the absolute construction in modern English has no Ukrainian compliance when it is considered as a unit of grammatical structure. It has a complex meaning, which connects a set of adverbial relations [4: 89]. However, in a concrete expression to the forefront can be nominated only one or two types of such relations (temporary, causal, conditional, etc.), which allows to compare occasionally the appropriate structure of Ukrainian to the original absolute construction:

The first experiment a failure, the evidence available today demands closer scrutiny. – *У зв'язку з невдачею першого експерименту наявні на сьогодні дані потребують ретельнішого аналізу.*

Business disposed of, Mr. Swiveller was inwardly reminded of its being high dinner-time. – *Коли з цією справою було закінчено, організм містера Свівелера нагадав йому, що час обіду наближається.*

3. Transformational translation means transferring the meaning of a nonequivalent unit using one of the grammatical transformations, which are used together with lexical transformations to describe the translation process. In the following examples English absolute construction, entered with the help of *"with"*, is replaced in Ukrainian translation by an independent sentence (syntactic transformation division):

With him in our hands, we can make an empirical investigation. – *Поки він знаходиться в наших руках, ми в змозі здійснити емпіричне дослідження.*

The old capitalists and bureaucratic managements remained the directors and managers of the new nationalized industries, with a few right-wing trade-union officials thrown in for luck. – *Старі власники капіталів й адміністративне управління стали директорами та начальниками нових націоналізованих підприємств. Крім того, було збільшено декілька правих профсоюзних чиновників.*

Thus, there is no a situation in translation when it cannot be made. There is always a way of rendering the meaning of any grammatical unit. And it doesn't matter if it is a scientific-technical or belletristic literature.

Література

1. Лінгвістика ХХІ століття: нові дослідження і перспективи: [зб. наук. праць] / НАН України; Центр наукових досліджень і викладання іноземних мов / А.Д. Белова (голов.ред.). – К.: Логос, 2008. – 317 с.
2. Науково-технічний переклад: Конспект лекцій і дидактичний матеріал для студентів лінгвістичних спеціальностей / Черкаський держ. технологічний ун-т / Людмила Олександрівна Андрієнко (уклад.). – Черкаси: ЧДТУ, 2002. – 91 с.
3. Проблеми інтерпретації і рецепції художнього тексту: Зб. наук. пр. на пошану професора Нонни Шляхової з нагоди її 70-річчя / Одеський нац. ун-т ім. І.І. Мечникова / Євген Черноіваненко (голов.ред.). – О.: Астропринт, 2003. – 352 с.
4. Пумпянский А.Л. Введение в практику перевода научной и технической литературы на английский язык. – М., 1981. – 344 с.
5. Superanskaya A.V., Podolskaya N.V., Vasilieva N.V. General terminology. Theory issues. – М.: Science, 2003. – 246 p.