

Translation of Phraseological Units in Scientific Texts

The basic stylistic feature of a scientific and technical text is the exact and accurate presentation of the material with almost total absence of the expressive means that are used in belletristic style and make the speech emotional. The main emphasis is made on logic, instead of on emotionally-sensual part of the statement. The author of a scientific and technical article strives for excluding any possibility of free interpretation of a subject matter, owing to what the usage of phraseological elements is restricted in the scientific literature; however they can present certain difficulties while translating [1: 285]. The results of our research have shown that this phenomenon is more typical of English texts rather than of Ukrainian.

Phraseology is an extremely difficult phenomenon, the studying of which demands the special method of research.

The majority of linguists adhere to the broad definition of the term “phraseology” (Gr. *phrasis* – “expression, a turn”, *logos* – “a word, doctrine”): 1) a set of phraseological units of a certain language; 2) a part of linguistics which studies phraseological structure of language [2: 56]. A narrower interpretation of the term is made by A.V. Koonin: “phraseology is a science of phraseological units, i.e. stable combinations of words with complicated semantics which aren’t formed by structurally-semantic models of variable connections that form them” [3: 5]. Phraseological unit is a group of words with a special meaning which is different from the meanings of the separate words.

Phraseological units are word-groups that cannot be made in the process of speech; they exist in the language as ready-made units. They are compiled in special dictionaries. As well as words phraseological units express a single notion and are used in a sentence as one part of it. American and British lexicographers call such units “idioms”.

There are many classifications of phraseological units (PU): by a structural, lexical principle, however the greatest recognition has gained the semantic classification offered by V.V. Vinogradov. It is based on PU motivation, i.e. on the relations that exist between the meaning of the whole and that of each component. Thus on the basis of the degree of motivation, that is the possibility to change a form or an order of components, 3 groups of PU were distinguished:

- phraseological unities;
- phraseological combinations;
- phraseological fusions [4: 121].

The choice of adequate translation depends on PU type.

Phraseological combinations are often called traditional because words are combined in their original meaning but their combinations are different in various languages, e.g. *cash and carry* (*self-service shop*), *in a big way* (*in great degree*) etc. It is usually impossible to account logically for the combination of particular words. It can be explained only on the basis of tradition.

In phraseological combinations words retain their full semantic independence although they are limited in their combinative power, e.g. *to wage war* (but not *to lead war*), *to render assistance*, *to render services* (but not *to render pleasure*).

Phraseological combinations are the least idiomatic of all kinds of phraseological units. In other words, in phraseological combinations the meaning of the whole can be inferred from the meaning of the components, e.g. *to draw a conclusion*, *to lend assistance*, *to make money*, *to pay attention to*.

In phraseological unities the meaning of the whole can be guessed from the meanings of its components, but it is transferred (metaphorical or metonymical), e.g. *to play the first fiddle* (to be a leader in something), *old salt* (experienced sailor) etc. The meaning of the whole word combination is not the sum of the meanings of its components, but it is based on them and the meaning of the whole can be inferred from the image that underlies the whole expression, e.g. *to get on one’s nerves*, *to cut smb short*, *to show one’s teeth*, *to be at daggers drawn*.

In phraseological fusions the degree of motivation is very low, we cannot guess the meaning of the whole from the meanings of its components, they are highly idiomatic and cannot be translated word for word into other languages, e.g. *to pull one’s leg* (to deceive); *at sixes and sevens* (in confusion); *a mare’s nest* (a discovery which turns out to be false or worthless); *to show the white feather* (to show cowardice); *to ride the high horse* (to put on airs). Phraseological fusions are the most idiomatic of all kinds of phraseological units [4: 127].

Zh.A. Golikova notices that figurative phraseological units demand much more attention on the part of a translator unlike not figurative, because they have no settled variants of translation and present much more difficult semantic formation [5: 213].

V.N. Komisarov offers the following ways of phraseological units translation:

- 1) phraseological equivalent;
- 2) phraseological analog;
- 3) loan translation;
- 4) descriptive translation;
- 5) contextual replacement.

Phraseological equivalent is a Ukrainian figurative phraseological unit which completely corresponds in sense to any English phraseological unit and is based on the same image. Mostly these PU came from the Greek mythology (*Cassandra warning* – «застереження Кассандри», *cautions being neglected, but come true*; *Augean stable* – «Авгійові стайні», *neglected place*), ancient history and literature (*to cross the Rubicon* – «перейти Рубікон», *to make the important decision*; *I came, I saw, I conquered* – «прійшов, побачив, переміг»), and biblical plots (*to cast pearls before swine* – «розсипати перли перед свиньми», *prodigal son* – «блудний син») [6: 118].

The number of equivalents in the Ukrainian and the English languages is rather insufficient. More often the translator should use Ukrainian PU, similar in a sense of the English PU, but based on other image [7: 216]. In this case a phraseological analog is used. For example,

To win these days, to be the big gun, you have to have new ideas. – Щоб досягнути успіху, стати впливовою людиною, потрібно мати нові ідеї.

When there is neither an equivalent, nor analog to the English PU, a translator should resort to literal translation of an image of a foreign PU, i.e. to translate by a calque [8: 168].

The 47-year-old Collins sits at the center of a vortex of medical hopes and fears that is probably unrivaled. – 47-річний Колінз перебуває в епіцентрі вихору медичних сподівань та побоювань.

Loan translation allows translating the original text almost lost-free in the semantic or stylistic relation. But also here it is necessary to be attentive in translating PU with national coloring.

Descriptive translation is an explanation of PU sense by means of free word combinations. Descriptive translation is, in fact, not exactly a translation of PU, but an interpretation, as is often the case with units that have no equivalents in the target language [9: 275].

Simulating such a phenomenal blast in a lab experiment might smack of hubris. – Здавалося, що моделювання такого феноменального вибуху в лабораторному експерименті – зарозумілість.

The core of contextual replacement in translation of PU is that the translator tries to find such Ukrainian PU that doesn't have the same meaning as of English PU taken separately, but with sufficient accuracy retells its matter in the given concrete context [10: 164]. For example:

He certainly doesn't believe in letting the grass grow under his feet. – Він не є прибічником бездієвого очікування у моря погоди.

There are a lot of theoretical works devoted to the topic of translation of phraseological units, but no unified "recipe" has been found. Therefore background knowledge, creativity and professionalism of a translator are of great importance. He should not only render the meaning of PU, but also the content and the character of the text.

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