TRANSLATING IDIOMS FROM ENGLISH TO RUSSIAN: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

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Annotation. *This paper analyzes the challenges of translating idioms from English into Russian. Various strategies for overcoming these difficulties are analyzed, including equivalent translation, paraphrase, omission, and others. Examples from different sources illustrate how translators choose different methods depending on context, style, and target language conventions. The study emphasizes the importance of maintaining both meaning and natural flow in translation while adapting idiomatic expressions of the target audience.*

Аннотация. *В данной работе рассматриваются трудности перевода идиом с английского языка на русский язык. Проанализированы различные стратегии преодоления этих трудностей, включая эквивалентный перевод, перефразирование, опущение и другие. Примеры из реальных текстов показывают, как переводчики выбирают различные методы в зависимости от контекста, стиля и норм целевого языка. Исследование подчеркивает важность сохранения как смысла, так и естественность перевода при адаптации идиоматических выражений для целевой аудитории.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidan rus tiliga tarjima qilishdagi qiyinchiliklar ko`rib chiqilgan. Ushbu qiyinchiliklarni yengish uchun turli strategiyalar tahlil qilingan, jumladan so`zma-so`z tarjima, kalk, parafraz va boshqalar. Misollarda, tarjimonlarning kontekst, uslub va maqsadli tilning qoidalariga qarab turli usullarni qanday tanlashlarini*

ko`rsatadi. Tadqiqot tarjima qilingan matnda ma`noni va tabiylikni saqlash hamda idiomatic iboralarni maqsadli auditoriya uchun moslashtirish muhimligini takidlaydi.

***Keywords**: idioms, translation strategies, paraphrase, calque, borrowing, compensation, target audience.*

***Ключевые слова:** идиомы, стратегии перевода, перефразирование, калька, заимствование, компенсация, целевая аудитория.*

***Kalit so‘zlar**: idiomalar, tarjima strategiyalari, parafraz, kalk, kompensatsiya, maqsadli auditoriya.*

INTRODUCTION

An idiom is a set expression or phrase whose meaning cannot be derived from the meaning of the meanings of the individual words that comprise it. In other words, the overall meanings of an idiom cannot be understood by translating each word literally. Such expressions have a figurative, metaphorical meaning and often develop as a result of the historical development of language, reflecting cultural traditions, national thinking, and the peculiarities of a people`s speech practices. Idioms are an important element of language and culture, and their correct understanding and translation play significant role in the process of intercultural communication and literary translation.

Translating idioms is one of the most challenging tasks in translation. This is because the meaning of an idiom often cannot be conveyed literally. To address this, translators rely on the concept of translation equivalence, which involves achieving the possible high level of similarity in meaning, function and style between the source text and target text. [1]

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

Translating idioms poses specific challenges:

1. ***Lack of an equivalent in the target language***.

Many idioms are culture-specific, and when people try to understand word for word they mostly fail to convey the intended meaning. One language may express a given meaning by means of a single word, another may express it by means of a transparent fixed expression, a third may express it by means of an idiom and so on. It is therefore unrealistic to expect to find equivalent idioms. [2]

Example: *To go Dutch – (each person pays for themselves) in Russian there is no equivalent so we translate with paraphrase: (платить каждый сам за себя)*

1. ***Differences in contextual usage***.

The two expressions may have different connotations or they may not be pragmatically transferable**. [2]**

Example: *To pull someone`s leg – (to tease, to joke) in Russian the main purpose is on the lie (водить за нос).*

2. *Simultaneous literal and idiomatic meanings*.

Unless the target language idiom corresponds to the source-language idiom both in form and in meaning, the play on idiom cannot be successfully reproduced in the target text. [2]

Example: *To hit the books – (start studying) in exact word for word in Russian will be (ударить книги) but with idiomatic mening in equivalent will be (сажусь за книги, начинаю учиться)*

3. Cultural and stylistic factors.

Idioms can carry stylistic weight, humor, or rhetorical effect that may be difficult to reproduce in another language, especially in multimodal contexts like films or advertisements**.[2]**

Example: *break a leg- (good luck) ни пуха ни пера in Russian equivalent different cultural contexts but the same function and meaning.*

The translation of idioms depends on multiple factors. According to Baker, translators must consider lexical composition, context, stylistic

appropriateness, and rhetorical effect. The choice of strategy therefore depends on whether an idiom`s meaning, style, and cultural significance can be adequately conveyed.

1. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

It is when an idiom in the target language may convey the same meaning but use different words. [2,4]

For example: *To bite off more than you can chew – (to take more than you can handle) in Russian: взять на себя непосильную ношу. Here we used more formal structure but similar meaning.*

2. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form.

This strategy involves finding a target language idiom with equivalent meaning and lexical structure. However, such matches are rare and they depend on the context**. [2]**

For example: *it`s raining cats and dogs- (very heavy rain); Russian idiom: льет как из ведра. The both idioms conveys the same meaning and style*

3. Borrowing the source language idiom.

In cases where no equivalent exists, idioms can be borrowed directly.

***To sell someone down the river-(предать кого то ради своей выгоды*)**

4. Translation by paraphrase

Paraphrasing is often used when no equivalent exists or when idiomaticity is inappropriate for the target text. [2,3]

For example: *to bring home the bacon - (earn money/support family: in Russian: (обеспечивать семью) the full equivalent does not exists so we give an paraphrased version.*

5. Translation by omission of entire idiom

Sometimes an idiom may be completely omitted if it cannot be paraphrased or stylistically fits the target language.

For example: he`s really out of his mind –(very excited; irrational) in Russian: (он не в себе)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, translating idioms is complex task because of their cultural specificity, figurative meaning, and language differences. To translate successfully, a translator must keep the expressive power of the original while conveying it sounds natural for target audience. This perspective is supported by the work A.V. Fedorov, who pointed out that the purpose is to achieve functional adequacy rather than simple linguistic mirroring.

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