Modes of Expression of Interlingual Transformations in the Translation of The Novel "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

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Abstract

Translation is considered to be one of the oldest human activities; its role is significant in formation of nation and world cultures. The given research is devoted to the study of interlingual transformations peculiarities based on the fiction work "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. The relevance of the work is presenting of a modern research and analysis of interlingual transformations in the field of translation. The accumulation of researches on peculiarities of interlingual transformations within the framework of fiction texts translation from English into Russian can help to achieve a high quality of literary translation. The novelty of the given research is in studying a phenomenon on the basis of a new material – the translation of the novel "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens from English into Russian, the analysis of modes of expression of interlingual transformations. The study can contribute to further development of general theory of translation studies and stylistics.

Keywords: Language, Translation, Text, Interlingual transformation, Equivalence, Source language, Target language.

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Introduction

Much attention has often been paid to the problem of expressing units of the source language (SL) to the target language (TL), namely, modes of transformations, where an adequate interpretation of the literary text is possible while preserving the author's style and ideological direction. However, there is no general opinion on the essence of the notion of translation transformation, that's why one can find a large number of classifications of this phenomenon and ways of its expression in linguistics (Barhudarov, 1975; Bazarova, & Gilyazeva, 2017; Catford, 1965).

Interlingual transformation is the transformation of source language elements into the target language in order to achieve an equivalent translation; transformation of the word by lexico-semantic and morphological-syntactic methods (Chukovskij, 2008).

The specific theory of translation deals with the translation of various languages (Sakaeva, 2018). The language has its own set of correspondences for each pair of units, its own particular theory of translation. The ability of translation correspondences to be communicatively equivalent is determined not only by the meaning they possess but also by specific features manifested in the speech (Dickens, 2011).

Equivalence of the text is the degree of adequacy of translation to the original text (Dickens, 2011).

Equivalence is equality in a certain respect. Perfect equality cannot be realized. Each thing is specific in its kind (Bazarova, & Gilyazeva, 2017). There is theoretically possible equivalence determined by the correlation of structures and rules of functioning of two languages and optimal equivalence achieved in a particular act of translation (Kalegina, et al, 2015).

T. A. Ozerskaya as a translator reached a maximum level of an adequate translation of the novel "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, using a wide range of modes of translation transformations in the text of TL, avoiding innovations and any other means which subject the source text to a free translation.

Research Methodology

In the given paper there were used such types of empirical methods as comparison and description, synthesis, quantitative method of data analysis.

Methodological basis of the research contains such works as "The linguistics of translation" (2016) by V. N. Komissarov, "Language and translation: questions of general and special theory of translation" (1975) by L. S. Barhudarov, "Theory and methods of translation" (1996) by R. K. Minyar-Beloruchev, "Translation: theory, practice and methods of teaching" (2003) by L. K. Latyshev, "High art: principles of literary translation" (2008) by K. I. Chukovsky, who deal with the theory and practice of translation.

Study results and their discussion

The analysis of linguists' works on translation transformations (Bazarova, & Gilyazeva, 2017; Catford, 1965; Komissarov, 2016; Latyshev, 2003; Sakaeva, et al, 2018; Sakaeva, et al, 2018; Solnyshkina, & Ismagilova, 2015) led to consideration of the following main types on the example of the studied work.

Reordering transformation (inversion) – a changed order of language units in TL according to SL. Reordering transformation, as a grammatical transformation, is one of the most common phenomena in translation.

«Really, *for a man who had been out of practice for so many years, it was a splendid laugh, a most illustrious laugh*» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «Nichego ne skazhesh', *etobylprevoskhodnyjsmekh, smekhchtonado, osobennodlyacheloveka, kotoryjdavnouzherazuchilsyasmeyat'sya*» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

Inversion is used to draw the attention of the reader to details that have important information characterizing the state of the character, displaying its specific features.

«*It* gave him no reply» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). –«*Prizrak*nichego ne otvetil» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

Replacing parts of speech – in this case, a pronoun for a noun does not change the semantics of the sentence.

Replacement can be almost at all levels of transformation of language units. One of the characteristic examples of this transformation can be the following:

«Scrooge*wasbetterthanhisword*» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996).– «Skrudzh*derzhalsvoeslovo*» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

It is impossible to use a word-for-word translation since such a variant as *«Skrudzhbylluchshesvoegoslova»* does not convey the full meaning of what the author wanted to say.

Contextual translation is the replacement of a language unit when translating it by its contextual correspondence associated by a logical way. Contextual translation is usually divided into five main methods:

a) concretization is a lexical-semantic replacement of the unit of the SL with broad semantics by the unit of the target language with the narrower one. This technique is widely used in translating such words as: *to be, to have, to get, to do, to take, to give, to make, to come, to go.*

«Oh, he *was* early there» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «Chut' svet, Skrudzhuzhe*sidel* u sebya v kontore» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

b) generalization is a lexical, semantic replacement of a unit of the SL with a narrow meaning of a unit of the TL with a wide meaning.

«The *finger*pointed from the grave to him and back again» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «*Ruka*prizrakaukazalananegoisnovanamogilu» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

Perhaps with the help of generalization, the translator wanted to convey the blurring of the image of the spirit, the Ghost.

c) antonymic translation is a description that conveys the situation to the translating language from the opposite side due to the usage of antonyms, negative constructions or the transfer of negation.

«*Everybody knows that*, - said Peter» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «*Ktozhetogo ne znaet, -* vskrichalPiter» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

d) compensation is a transformation used when it is necessary to transfer certain semantic elements and stylistic features in other ways.

«*Eh*», - returned the boy, with all his might of wonder. «What's *to-day*, my fine *fellow*», - said Scrooge» (10, p. 86). – « *CHEGO?*» - vneopisuemomizumleniiisprosilmal'chishka. «Kakoj u nasnynche den', milyjmal'chugan?– povtorilSkrudzh» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

Unusual hyphenated use in the word "to-day" and its translation T. A. Ozerskaya replaces by the close "nynche den'". The use of "segodnya" is possible, but in comparison with the version proposed by TA. Ozerskaya, it can be considered modern. An equivalent variant of the translation of the word "fellow" is the lexical unit "mal'chugan", which has a light shade of goodwill and good intentions of Scrooge.

e) semantic development (modulation) is the replacement of a unit of language in the original one by a contextual, logically related unit of language in translation.

«He had no further intercourse with Spirits, but lived upon the Total Abstinence Principle, ever afterwards; *and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge*» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «Bol'she on uzhenikogdanevodilkompanii s duhami – v etomsmysle on priderzhivalsyaprincipovpolnogovozderzhaniya, – *i pro negoshlamolva, chtoniktoneumeettakchtit' ispravlyat' svyatki, kak on*» (Nida Albert. 1969).

Instead of using the direct translation of "on znal, kakotmechat' rozhdestvohorosho, chtonikto ne mogipodumat'" T. A. Ozerskaya resorts to modulation – if Scrooge has been always spoken about, therefore, a special opinion was fixed for him "shlamolva". In this example the semantic development is manifested at the level of paraphrase.

In addition to modulation an antonymic translation is also used – "nikto ne umeettakchtit' ispravlyat' svyatki".

Addition is the completion of a non-expression of semantic components of the phrase into the SL.

«And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us, Every One!» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «A teper' namostaetsyatol'kopovtorit' zaMalyutkojTimom: da osenitnasvsekhGospod' Bog *svoeyumilost'yu*!» (11, p. 100).

The best translation could be considered the use of the well-known Russian set phrase "da blagoslovitvsekhGospod'", but T. A. Ozerskayasuggests using the mode of addition, concretizing the meaning of the word "osenit", adding to this lexical unit the explaination"svoeyumilost'yu".

An omission is the deliberate omission of elements carrying redundant information.

«The upper portion of the garment was contracted for an instant in its folds, as if the Spirit had *inclined its head*» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «Skladkiodeyaniya, nispadayushchego s golovyduha, slegkashevel'nulis', slovno duh *kivnul*» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

T.A. Ozerskaya considers it unnecessary to use the translation "kivnulgolovoj" as the word "kivnul"has already carried the meaning "kivat' golovoj".

Syntactical assimilation (literal translation, zero information) is the transformation of the syntactical structure of the original text into a similar structure of the target language with the preservation of the number and semantics of lexical units, the correspondence of the grammatical structure of the sentence.

«The clock struck nine» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996).– *«Chasyprobilidevyat'»* (Nida & Taber, 1969).

This mode is most common in narration since the direct transfer of the course of action, the main events of the work of art should remain without any transformations.

Transcription is the expression of units of the SL by means of the TL from the point of view of the phonetic aspect.

Like many other translators T. A. Ozerskaya resorts to the method of transcription when translating proper nouns rather than transliteration. Transcription helps to convey the specifics of realities.

«Mr. Cratchit», «Peter», «Jacob Marley», «Ebenezer Scrooge» –«Mister Kretchet», «Piter», «DzhejkobMarli», «EbinizerSkrudzh».

Calque is the translation of a lexical unit of the original text through the replacement of its constituents – morphemes, words, their lexical correspondences in the translated text.

«You may talk vaguely about driving a *coach-and-six* up a good old flight on stairs, or through a bad young *Act of Parliament*; but I mean to say you might have got a hearse up that staircase, and taken it broadwise, with the splinter-bar towards the wall and the door towards the balustrades: and done it easy» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «Takikazhetsya, chtoponimmozhnoproekhat'sya v *kareteshesternej*iprotashchit' chtougodno. I razve v etomotnosheniioni ne napominayutslegkanashnovyj*aktparlamenta*, nu a potojlestnicemoglo by projticeloepogrebal'noeshestvie, iesli by dazhekomu-to prishlaohotapostavit' katafalkpoperek, ogloblyami – k stene, dvercami – k perilam» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

Grammatical substitutions are a means of translation in which the unit of the SL is transformed into a unit of the TL with a different grammatical category.

«*Scrooge asked the question*, because he didn't know whether a ghost so transparent might find himself in a condition to take a chair; and felt that in the event of its being impossible, it might involve the necessity of an embarrassing explanation» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «*Zadavayasvojvopros*, Skrudzh ne byluveren v tom, chtotakoebestelesnoesushchestvo v sostoyaniizanimat' kreslo, iopasalsya, kak by ne vozniklaneobhodimost' v dovol'noshchekotlivyhraz"yasneniyah» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

When translating many grammatical constructions, linguists tend to use participial and adverbial phrases, resorting to grammatical substitutions. This technique allows to put the reader closer to the text.

Integral transformation is the transformation of the internal form of a speech segment both individual words and entire constructions, including sentences.

«Never mind. I don't care»(Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996).– *«Pust'! Ne beda»* (Nida & Taber, 1969).

The given example shows that correspondences do not have common semantic components; they have different forms, but simultaneously transmit the same content by means of different languages.

Semantic neologism is a new unit or construction invented by the translator himself to convey semantics of a unit in the absence of analogues in the TL.

When analyzing the translation of the novel, there wasn't revealed a semantic neologism. In addition, there weren't identified language units suitable for translation through the use of semantic neologism.

Functional equivalent is the transfer of the linguistic unit of SL by the unit of the TL, which causes a similar neutral reaction in a reader.

«Why, what was the matter with him, – asked a third, taking a vast quantity of *snuff* out of a very large *snuff-box*» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996). – «A chto s nimbylo?– sprosiltretij, beryaizryadnuyu*ponyushku*tabakuizogromnoj*tabakerki*» (Nida & Taber, 1969).

The words "ponyushka" and "tabakerka" are absolute functional analogues in the TL, since these lexical units have nothing in common with the word formation, but have an absolute character of their semantics.

Metaphorical transformation is the transfer of meaning due to the similarity of concepts. This type includes: a) remetaphorization – the replacement of one metaphor by another.

«Old Scratch has *got his own* at last, hey» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996).– «*On popal-taki*nakonec*chertu v lapy*» (Nida & Taber, 1969; Murzinova, et al, 2018).

b) demethaforization – replacing the metaphor with a non-metaphor.

«The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might *keep his eye upon* his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was coping letters» (Minyar-Beloruchev,1996). – «Skrudzhderzhaldver' kontorypriotvorennoj, dabyimet' vozmozhnost' *priglyadyvat'za*svoimklerkom, kotoryj v temnojmalen'kojkamorke, verneeskazat', chulanchike, perepisyvalbumagi» (Nida Albert, 1969).

The idiom "to keep an eye on smb" could be translated as "ne spuskayaglaz", however the translator uses the verb "priglyadyvat'", which can be considered as a translation variant.

Integral transformation is the replacement of a set combination by another combination in the TL.

«It's likely to be a very cheap funeral, – said the same speaker. – For *upon my life* I don't know of anybody to go to it» (Minyar-Beloruchev, 1996).– «Pohozhepyshnyhpohoronne budet, – prodolzhalchelovek s podborodkom.– *Propadiyapropadom*, eslikto-nibud' pridet ego horonit'» (Nida & Taber, 1969; Shaker Mehdi Rahimi & Zare, 2016).

The phrase "upon my life" is translated as "chestnoeslovo", but T.A. Ozerskaya uses a lexical substitution – the phrase "*propadipropadom*" which conveys the meaning with a hint of being categorical and confidence of the speaker.

Results

It should be noted that types of interlingual transformations are quite diverse in the translation of the novel "A Christmas Carol" by T. A. Ozerskaya. Translation transformations are complex. The change of a lexical unit can lead to a modification of the whole structure, and not only from the point of view of the grammatical aspect, but also stylistically.

Translation transformations can be divided into subtypes, the main ones are mentioned in the above examples. Thus, the study and analysis of interlingual transformation as a unique phenomenon in linguistics has some prospects for development, the creation of new types and further study of features of transferring the meaning from the SL into the TL.
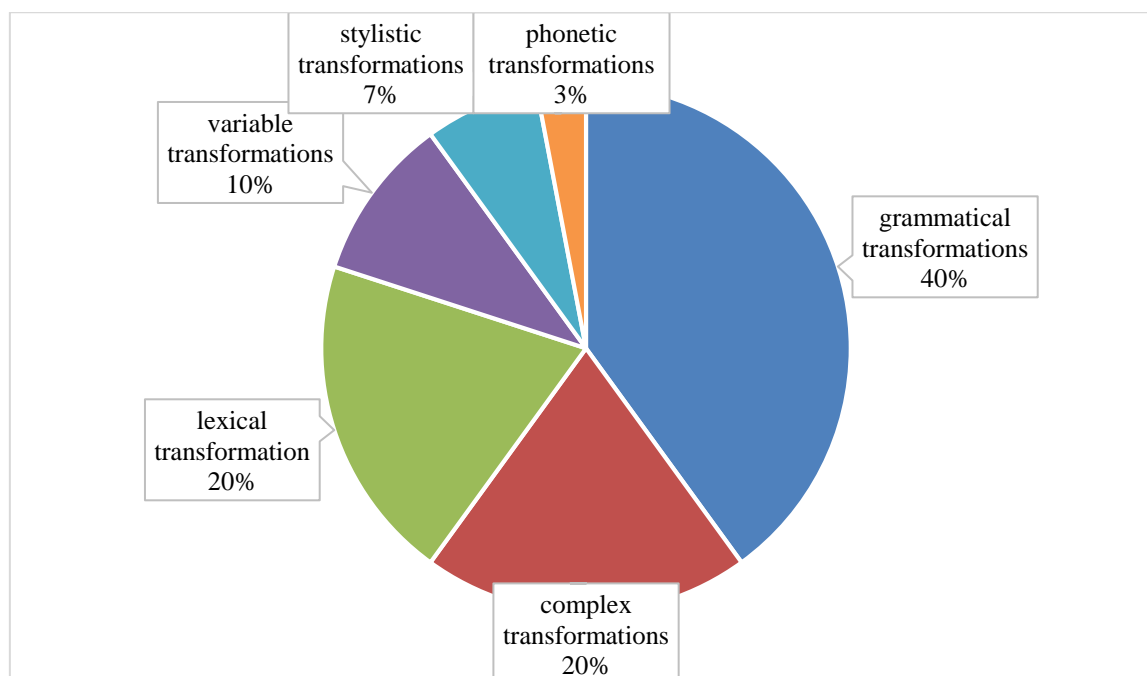

Figure 1. The frequency of translation transformations usage in the Russian translation of T.A. Ozerskaya "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

The ratio of interlingual transformations usage in translation of T. A. Ozerskaya "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens:

1. grammatical transformations – 40 %;
2. complex transformations – 20%;
3. lexical transformation – 20%;
4. variable transformations – 10%;
5. stylistic transformations – 7%;
6. phonetic transformations – 3%.

Conclusion

Thus, the prevalent use of grammatical transformations in translation has been identified which can be justified by a different structure of languages – synthetic and analytical.

Complex transformations are grammatical and lexical modifications against which the stylistic transformation of semantics is manifested.

At the stylistic level such transformations as remetaphorization and demethaforization of units are widely used, which primarily affect the imagery and atmosphere of the work. In this case the frequent use of demethaforization is negative, since it can affect the mood of the work. Phonetic transcription and transliteration are the names of cities, towns, names of heroes.

Acknowledgement

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