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ADEQUACY AND EQUIVALENCE IN TRANSLATION STUDIES

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Abstract. This study examines the problems of translation that the genre of popular science feature articles poses for translators and investigates the methods followed in dealing with these problems and their ability to produce adequate translations. The method of analysis is adopted from Hervey and Higgins' (1992) model of translation analysis in which the principle of translation loss is used to assess the adequacy of a target text in relation to five textual levels: genre, cultural, semantic, formal and varietal. Textual analysis has identified several translation problems some of which are general and some specific to the genre. The methods followed by translators vary, and analysis shows that translation loss is mainly on the semantic and formal levels.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu tadqiqot tarjimonlar uchun ilmiy-ommabop maqolalar janri tarjimonlar uchun qo'yadigan tarjima muammolarini o'rganib chiqadi va ushbu muammolarni hal qilishda qo'llaniladigan usullarni va ularning adekvat tarjima qilish qobiliyatini o'rganadi. Tahlil usuli Hervi va Xigginsning (1992) tarjima tahlili modelidan qabul qilingan bo'lib, unda tarjimani yo'qotish printsipi matnning adekvatligi beshta matn darajasi bilan bog'liqligini baholash uchun ishlatiladi: janr, madaniy, semantik, rasmiy va. navli. Matn tahlili bir nechta tarjima muammolarini aniqladi, ularning ba'zilari umumiy, ba'zilari esa janrga xosdir. Tarjimonlar kuzatadigan usullar turlicha bo'lib, tahlillar shuni ko'rsatadiki, tarjimani yo'qotish asosan semantik va rasmiy darajada bo'ladi.

Аннотация. В этом исследовании исследуются проблемы перевода, которые жанр научно-популярных тематических статей ставит перед переводчиками, и исследуются методы, используемые при решении этих проблем, и их способность производить адекватные переводы. Метод анализа заимствован из модели анализа перевода Херви и Хиггинса (1992), в которой принцип потери перевода используется для оценки адекватности целевого текста по отношению к пяти уровням текста: жанровому, культурному, семантическому, формальному и сортовой. Анализ текста выявил несколько проблем перевода, некоторые из которых являются общими, а некоторые специфичными для жанра. Переводчики используют разные методы, и анализ показывает, что потеря перевода происходит в основном на семантическом и формальном уровнях.

Key words: problems of translation, translation analysis, popular science feature articles, equivalence, adequacy, source text (ST), target text (TT).

Kalit so'zlar: tarjima muammolari, tarjima tahlili, ilmiy-ommabop maqolalar, ekvivalentlik, adekvatlik, dastlabki matn (ST), maqsadli matn (TT).

Ключевые слова: проблемы перевода, анализ перевода, научно-популярные тематические статьи, эквивалентность, адекватность, исходный текст (СТ), целевой текст (ТТ).

Introduction

As English became the universal language of science in the 20th century, most scientific research is written in English all over the world, including the Uzbek world. At the same time, there is a growing demand for communicating scientific knowledge to the public in the form of popular science magazines and TV documentaries as well as encyclopedias and books. Consequently, there is also an increasing call for translation of these works into language for the 'everyman' reader. It is, therefore, essential for translators and translation trainees to be aware of the translation problems that such popularizations may pose and the factors that affect the quality of translations of such writings. To explore the factors that influence the quality of translation of scientific texts written for the general public, a corpus of five popular science feature articles (PSFAs) is chosen for textual analysis with the aim of answering the following questions:

(1) What are the translation problems¹ that the textual features of the genre of PSFAs pose for the Uzbek translator?

(2) What translation techniques are used to deal with these problems?

(3) How successful are these methods in producing adequate translations?

The five texts are analyzed using Hervey and Higgins' (1992) schema of five filters and its developed version in Dickins, Hervey and Higgins (2002). This schema is a systematic translation-oriented model of text analysis that distinguishes five main categories corresponding to: the genre, cultural, semantic, formal and varietal features of a text. There is also the component of the translation brief which constitutes details of the purpose of translation, its time and place, and all other information related to the communicative situations of the source text (ST) and the target text (TT). These categories allow for the analysis of the linguistic, cultural, pragmatic and text-specific translation problems identified by Nord (1997: 64-67). Even though the model is primarily devised as a translation method, Hervey and Higgins (1992: 244) intend the translator to use it in assessing his/her work as well as that of others. This same systematic method of analysis is, therefore, used to identify and assess the strategies employed by the translators of the sample texts to deal with these problems, in terms of their success in producing adequate target texts.

Adequacy and Equivalence A TT has always been assessed in terms of its relation to the ST, traditionally called the relation of equivalence. The concept of equivalence, however, has so far proved elusive to definition (cf. Bassnett-McGuire 1991; Pym 1992; Baker 1992). Among the most influential works on equivalence in translation are Eugene Nida's (1964), who distinguishes between two types of equivalence: formal and dynamic. Formal equivalence focuses on the form as well as the content of the message whereas dynamic equivalence focuses on producing an equivalent effect on target language (TL) readers by

tailoring the message to the linguistic specifications of the TL and the target culture. In other words, when the aim is to keep as close as possible to the ST in content and form, the translator would produce a formal equivalence, but when the aim is to make the TT conform to target culture conventions and read like TL original texts, the translator would be producing a dynamic equivalence. Nida does not ignore the fact that keeping close to both the content and the form of the ST is often not possible, and therefore considers, as a general rule, that content should always take priority over form if an equivalent effect is to be achieved. Obviously, if this rule is applied to poetry where form is as important as, if not more important than, the content, an equivalent effect cannot be achieved. The importance of Nida's work lies in his attempt to systematize translation methods and assessment. His concept of equivalent effect, however, is vague: equivalent effect on potential source or target readers defies scientific measurement, and also, there are language and cultural differences regarding what is considered as the equivalent effect of a ST in the TL (Munday 2001: 42).

Newmark (1981) builds on Nida's work, but even though he questions whether the effect produced by STs could possibly be reproduced on TT audiences, he does not completely abandon Nida's concept of equivalent effect. Using Nida's dynamic and formal equivalences as a basis, he identifies two types of translation as "correct": communicative and semantic. The choice between semantic and communicative methods for Newmark seems to depend on the genre, for he assigns serious literature, autobiography and any important political or other statement to semantic translation where the criterion of assessment is the accurate reproduction of the significance of the ST. As for non-literary and technical writings, communicative translation should be applied, the criterion of evaluation being the accurate communication of ST message in the TL (Munday 2001: 45). Determining the levels at which the significance of a text and its message are to be found and measuring accuracy in each case remains, however, subjective. In their attempt to design a method of translation that can offer a systematic approach to the task of translation, Hervey and Higgins (1992: 22-24) reject the principle of equivalent effect and criticize it as misleading and unhelpful for several reasons. First, measuring the exact effect of a ST is hard and problematic. Second, this principle presumes that a translator is able to know what effect the TT will have on its recipients. These two problems indicate that any assessment of equivalent effect will not be objective, because translators will have to substitute their own subjective interpretations of what effects a ST has on its recipients and a TT on its intended audience. Third, translation between any two languages is a translation between two different cultures, and, therefore, any effects of STs and their TTs will never be the same. Finally, in the case of STs written at a relatively distant point in the past, even if an objective equivalent effect is attainable, there is the problem of determining the effect of such a ST on its original audience. There is also the question of whether to reproduce the effect of a ST as it was on its original audience or as it is on a modern SL audience. Any attempt to determine such effects will, of course, be merely speculative. In short,

the principle of equivalent effect is intrinsically vague and poses too many methodological problems for it to be applied in a systematic study.

Hervey and Higgins (1992) adopt the more practical principle of inevitable translation loss, which means that every translation involves a certain degree of loss in meaning. Consequently, the translator's task is not to seek the perfect or ideal translation but to reduce the translation loss. To achieve this aim, the translator will have to decide "which of the relevant features in the ST it is most important to preserve, and which can most legitimately be sacrificed in preserving them" (Hervey/Higgins 1992: 25). Their concept of translation loss not only includes the inevitable loss of ST textual features, but also translation "gain" or addition of textual features to the TT that are not present in the ST, such as using TT words that have connotations not present in the ST. The translator's task thus moves from chasing an elusive ultimate translation by trying to maximize similarities between essentially two different texts to the more realistic task of reducing translation loss by minimizing the differences between the ST and the TT. According to Dickins, Hervey, and Higgins (2002: 21-25), translation loss is not a loss of translation, but of textual effects, and since effects cannot be quantified, loss cannot be either. It can, however, be controlled by continually asking if the loss matters or not, in relation to the purpose of translation.

In this study, I borrow Švejc'er's (1993) evaluative category of adequacy and apply it in Hervey and Higgins' (1992) model. Based on Reiß and Vermeer's (1984) work, Švejc'er (1993) distinguishes between equivalence and adequacy as evaluative categories, and he associates adequacy with the evaluation of the translation process in the real practice of translating, which inevitably involves loss. Adequacy allows for the assumption that decisions taken by translators not infrequently involve some kind of compromise; that translations require sacrifices and the translators must often put up with some losses during the translation process if they are to render that which is of primary importance in a text: its functional dominant (Švejc'er 1993: 52).

If applied in Hervey and Higgins' (1992) model, a TT can be described as adequate when the translation loss is acceptable. In order to determine which translation loss is acceptable and which is not, the degree of relevance of all textual features must be determined. Textual relevance is defined by Hervey and Higgins (1992: 242) as "a qualitative measure of the degree to which, in the translator's judgment, particular properties of a text are held responsible for the overall impact carried in and by that text." Those features that have high textual relevance must be preserved even if that causes translation loss of other less relevant features. Determining textual relevance, as Hervey and Higgins (1992) admit, is subjective. The most objective test suggested is to imagine that a particular textual property is omitted from the text and to assess what difference this omission would make to the overall impact of the text as a whole. If the answer is "little or none," we may take it that the property in question has a very low degree of textual relevance. If, on the other hand, omission of a textual property would imply a loss in either the genre-representative or the individual

(perhaps even deliberately idiosyncratic) character of the text, we may attribute a high degree of relevance to the textual property in question (Hervey/Higgins 1992: 243). Even though textual relevance is subjective to a degree, unlike Nida's equivalent effect, it deals with specific identifiable textual features and not with the effect of a text as a whole. In addition, as is clear from the above mentioned test, identifying the genre properties is essential to determining textual relevance. There are also questions regarding the translation: its purpose, its audience, its time and place and its medium, the answer to which constitutes the translation brief. This brief can, then, be used to decide the strategy that should be followed in translation. The information in the brief along with the genre requirements can help reduce the subjectivity in determining textual relevance.

Conclusion. To revisit the questions posed in the introduction, analysis has shown that there are a number of translation problems that PSFAs pose for the translator on various levels. On the cultural level, the main problems are idioms and names of people, institutions, and projects. The techniques used by Uzbek translators for idioms vary from literal translation to adaptation, whereas transliteration and literal translation are used in the translation of names. On the semantic level, the main problem specific to this genre is the translation of scientific terms, which are often rendered using borrowing, literal translation or a mixture of both. On the formal level, the main problem relates to compound structures and nominalizations, which are rendered using TL grammatical conventions, giving due consideration to the fact that Uzbek does not normally use compounding. Finally, on the varietal level, register could pose a translation problem in this genre, especially given the variation of technical terms, which the translators of this corpus solve by citing all variations possible, including the ST English term. There are a number of other problems detected on all levels, such as on the sentential and discourse levels, but these problems occur in any text and are not specific to the genre. As for the adequacy of the methods used in translation, the results of textual analysis show that unnecessary translation loss of features with high textual relevance occurs without compensation in the semantic and formal filters. This loss indicates a loss in the genre filter as well, because all choices are assessed in relation to the needs of the genre. In other words, the hypotheses related to the semantic and formal filters are proved false. By implication, the main hypothesis that all popular science feature articles translated into Uzbek by reputable publishers are adequate translations is also false. A number of factors that influence translation quality emerged from the findings of the textual analysis. The first is the prevalent method of literal translation used by Uzbek translators. More often than not, an awkward TT results from the translator's policy of excessive adherence to the ST until a problem necessitates adoption of a communicative translation strategy.

The list of used literature:

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2. Bassnett-McGuire, Susan (1991): Translation Studies. Revised ed. London: Routledge
3. Bhatia, Vijay Kumar (1993): Analysing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings. London: Longman
4. Dickins, James; Sandor Hervey, Ian Higgins (2002): Thinking Arabic Translation. A

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND STAGE OF COMPARATIVE STUDIES

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Annotation. This article is devoted to representatives of the first and second stages of comparative studies.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqola qiyosiy tadqiqotlar birinchi va ikkinchi bosqichlari vakillariga bag'ishlangan.

Аннотация. Данная статья посвящена представителям первого и второго этапов сравнительных исследований.

Key words: comparative-historical linguistics, comparative linguistics, language, comparativistics, linguistics.

Kalit so'zlar: qiyosiy-tarixiy tilshunoslik, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, til, komparativistika, tilshunoslik.

Ключевые слова: сравнительно-историческое языкознание, сравнительное языкознание, язык, компаративистика, языкознания.

Comparative-historical linguistics, comparative linguistics, comparativistics - a branch of linguistics that studies genetically related languages, identifies the relationships between them and describes their evolution over the times and space. The purpose of comparativistics is to determine the origin of language families, individual languages and elements in these systems, including the genetic relationship between languages - their origin from a single source (ancestral language) (genealogical classification of languages). Comparativistics uses the method of comparative history as the main research tool in the reconstruction of the history of languages. The most common form of research is the compilation of comparative-historical grammars (covering phonetics in the first place) and etymological dictionaries (representing lexicons). Comparativistics as opposed to descriptive or synchronous linguistics, normative and general linguistics denies them. At the same time, it interacts with a number of issues, both descriptive linguistics and general linguistics.

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4-ШЎЪБА: ХОРИЖИЙ ТИЛЛАРНИ ЎҚИТИШНИНГ ИННОВАЦИОН ТЕХНОЛОГИЯЛАРИ

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