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TRANSFER OF REFERENTIAL MEANINGS IN LITERARY TRANSLATION

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ABSTRACT

This article depicts the main problem that the translator encounters when transferring referential meanings expressed in the source text is the discrepancy between the range of meanings inherent in the FL (first language) and TL (target language) units. The author samples the semantic units - morphemes, stable phrases, that are completely coincide in the entire volume of their referential meanings. The article approves that expressed meanings (“concepts”) themselves are mostly the same, but the ways of expressing them - their grouping, division and unification, combination within one formal unit (several units), as a rule, in different languages diverge more or less radically.

Key words: Referential meaning, schedule, corresponds, connotation, denotation, binominal, polynomial.

INTRODUCTION

This can be especially clearly demonstrated on the material of the vocabulary of two different languages - in our case, Russian and English. Although not only words carriers of referential meanings, it is nevertheless convenient to take the word as a unit of comparison when comparing semantic units of different languages; therefore, in the further presentation, we will focus on Russian and English words. However, it should be borne in mind that the types of discrepancies that we note between the semantic systems of different languages are not limited to words, but are also characteristic of other linguistic units.

In general, all types of semantic correspondences between lexical units of two languages can be reduced to three main ones: 1) full correspondence; 2) partial compliance; 3) lack of conformity. Let us consider these three cases separately, taking into account, that for the theory and practice of translation, the last two cases (partial correspondence and complete lack of correspondence) are of particular interest and difficulty.

MAIN PART

Cases of complete coincidence of lexical units of different languages in the entire volume of their referential meaning are relatively rare. As a rule, these words are unambiguous that, they have only one lexical meaning in both languages; their number, as is known, is relatively small in comparison with the total mass of words in the lexicon of the language. This includes words that belong primarily to the following lexical groups: 1) Proper names and geographical names included in the vocabulary of both languages, for example: Homer - Homer, Moscow - Moscow, Poland - Poland, etc. 2) Scientific and technical terms, for example: logarithm - logarithm, hex - hexahedron, hydrogen - hydrogen, sodium - sodium, mammal - mammal, nocall - vertebra, cruciferous - cruciferous, proton - proton, equator - equator, voltmeter - voltmeter, etc. .d. 3) Some other groups of words that are similar in semantics to the two indicated, for example, the names of months and days of the week: January - January, Monday - Monday, etc. This is also accompanied by such a peculiar group of words as numerals: one thousand - thousand, million - millions, etc.

However, one should not think that all words belonging to the above groups are full matches. Often there are cases, when there is no unambiguity of correspondences within the given semantic categories of words. So, word-terms in many cases are characterized by polysemy and, therefore, have not one, but several correspondences in another language, for example: the English term *power* has meanings in physics (and, accordingly, Russian equivalents): force, power, energy and in mathematics - a degree.

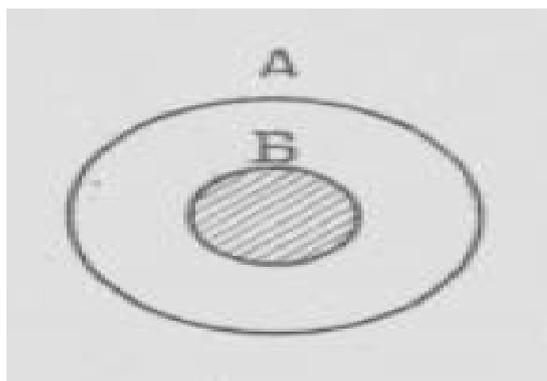
Technical terminology is particularly ambiguous; so, the Russian term camera corresponds to the English ones: chamber, compartment, cell, camera (photo), tube (tires), chest, barrel (pump), lining (hose), etc.; Russian plate - English plate, slab, lamina, lamella, bar, sheet, blade, etc. The names of little-known or rare animals for a given country are usually unambiguous and have full correspondences, for example: porcupine, flaming, etc. while the names of well-known and widespread animals are not only zoological terms, but also enter into common vocabulary and thereby acquire ambiguity. For example, the English tiger has, in addition to the tiger, also meanings (and, accordingly, the Russian equivalents): a cruel person, a dangerous adversary, a bully, a bully, etc. In the number of numerals, the uniqueness of the Anglo-Russian correspondences is violated by the presence in the Russian language of such pairs as two, three, five, seven, ten and etc. In addition, the existence of synonymous terms in the language also hinders the uniqueness and constancy of terminological correspondences; thus, the English mathematical terms binominal and polynominal can be rendered in Russian as a binomial, polynomial and as a binomial, polynomial, respectively (in the absence of any difference in the referential meaning of these Russian terms). [1,89]

In very rare cases, full correspondence, that is, the coincidence of words in two languages in the entire volume of their referential meanings, is also found in polysemous words. So, the Russian lion, like the English lion, has the following meanings: 1) 'large predatory mammal of the cat family'; 2) 'celebrity, secular trendsetter' 3) 'constellation and sign of the zodiac' (when written with a capital letter). However, this completeness of semantic correspondence is violated in the plural form - the English lions also has the meaning of 'local attractions' (for example, in the expressions to see, to show the lions), which is absent in the Russian word.[6,23]

It is clear that complete matches do not present any particular difficulty for the translator, their transmission does not depend on the context, and the translator only needs a firm knowledge of the corresponding equivalent. [2, 214] The most

common case when comparing lexical units of two languages is partial correspondence, in which not one, but several semantic equivalents in the TL correspond to one word in the FL. The overwhelming majority of words of any language are characterized by polysemy, and the system of meanings of a word in one language, as a rule, does not completely coincide with the system of meanings of words in another language. [9,56]

In this case, different cases can be observed. So, sometimes the range of meanings of a word in FL turns out to be wider than that of the corresponding word in FL (or vice versa), that is, the word in FL (or in FL) has all the same meanings as the word in FL (respectively, FL), but, in addition, it also has meanings that are conveyed in other words in another language. So, the Russian character, like the English character, has the following meanings: 1) "the totality of the mental characteristics of a person"; 2) 'strong will, persistence in achieving the goal' (He is a man without character - Has no character); 3) 'property, quality, originality of something'. The English character, in addition, has meanings that are absent from the Russian character and are conveyed in Russian in other words, namely: 4) 'reputation'; 5) 'written recommendation, characteristic'; 6) 'distinctive feature, sign, quality'; 7) 'figure, personality (often strange, original)'; 8) 'literary image, hero, character in the play'; 9) 'printable sign, letter, symbol' (for example, Chinese characters - Chinese characters (writing)). Such a relation of incomplete equivalence between words of two languages can be called inclusion and schematically depicted as follows: where A is a word in one language, B is a word in another language; the shaded part means the same meaning of both words. [1,45]

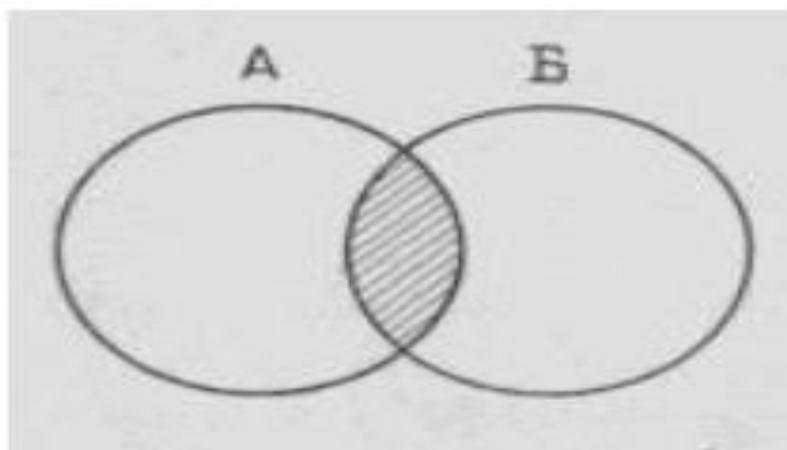


More common case occurs when both words - in FL and in TL - have both the same and divergent meanings. So, the Russian table and the English table coincide only in the meaning of 'piece of furniture'¹, but differ in others: the Russian table also has the meanings 'food', 'food', (for example, 'table and apartment', 'dietary table') and 'institution', 'department in the office' (for example, 'lost and found', 'passport office'), which are absent from table and are accordingly rendered in English by the words board, food, cooking, diet and office, department. On the other hand, the English table has meanings that are absent from the Russian table and conveyed in Russian by words: board, plate, table, schedule, mountain plateau and some others.

Another example: the Russian word house coincides with the English house in the meanings of 'building' and 'dynasty' (for example, the house of the Romanovs - the House of Romanovs), but differs in others: the Russian house also has the meaning of 'home, dwelling', which already corresponds to the English word - home, as well as the meaning of 'institution', 'enterprise', in which it is translated differently, depending on which institution it is about: cf. orphanage - children's home or orphanage, trading house - (commercial) firm, correctional house - reformatory, gambling house - gambling-house or casino, insane asylum (colloquial) - lunatic asylum, etc.

The English house also has a number of meanings that the Russian word house does not have, for example, 'the House of Commons', 'theater', 'audience, spectators', 'performance, session' and a number of others. It is not difficult to

increase the number of such examples. A similar kind of relationship between words of two languages, which appears, as noted, in the most common case, we can call an intersection and depict in the following way:



A somewhat different and, perhaps, more interesting, from a theoretical point of view, the nature of cases of partial equivalence, caused by a phenomenon that can be called the undifferentiation of the meaning of a word in one language compared to another. The point is that one word of a language expressing a broader ("undifferentiated") concept, that is, denoting a wider class of denotates, in another language can correspond to two or more words, each of which expresses a narrower, differentiated, in comparison with the first language, the concept, that is, it belongs to a more limited class of denotations. So, in Russian there is a word arm, which in English corresponds to two words - arm and hand, each of which denotes a narrower concept: arm denotes an upper limb from shoulder to hand, and hand denotes a hand, while the Russian hand denotes the entire upper limb of a person from shoulder to fingertips. Similarly, the Russian word leg, which denotes the entire lower limb, corresponds to two English words: leg 'non' except for the foot and foot 'foot'. Three English words correspond to the Russian word "finger" in the meaning of a part of the human body: finger "finger on the hand", thumb "thumb on the hand" and toe "toe on the leg in humans and animals". [8,67]

It is essential to emphasize, that in this case we are not talking about the polysemy of words; it cannot be argued that the Russian words hand and foot have two meanings, or that the English cherry has two different meanings - 'cherry' and 'sweet cherry'. In the beforementioned cases, these words have only one meaning (among which they have other meanings, so the Russian hand also means 'handwriting', 'power', 'influence', etc.), but the scope of this meaning is generally wider than that of their correspondences in another language.

True, it should be borne in mind that it is not always possible to strictly distinguish between polysemy and semantic non-differentiation. So, it is not entirely clear how to interpret the relationship between the Russian verb sail and its English counterparts swim, float and sail. We can assume (as, for example, the Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language, edited by D. N. Ushakov¹ does) that swimming (in the literal sense) has three different meanings: 1) 'to keep on the surface of the water with the help of certain body movements,' move along it (about man and animals) '; 2) 'rush, move with the flow of water'; 3) 'move along the surface of the water with the help of special devices,' devices, machines, etc. (about ships) '. Under this interpretation, English swim, float and sail appear to correspond to these three different meanings of the Russian word. However, another interpretation is also possible - it can be considered that the Russian verb to swim in all three indicated cases has the same meaning 'to move on water' (this interpretation seems to us to be more correct). In this case, we have reason to speak of the semantic undifferentiation of the Russian to swim in comparison with the three above English verbs, each of which contains in its semantic structure a feature that is absent in the content of the Russian word. [1,56]

In general, however, despite the existence of such controversial or intermediate cases, the concepts of polysemy and semantic undifferentiation differ quite clearly.³In the study of the relationship between the semantic structures of signs in different languages, there may be more complex cases of semantic non-differentiation than those given above. Consider, for example, the relationship

between the Russian words cheese and cottage and their English equivalents. At first glance, English words (apart from the fact that cheese in the spoken language has some other meanings besides 'cheese') are the full semantic equivalents of Russians.

Any idea can be expressed in different languages. However, the greatest difficulties in translation arise when the situation itself described in the text of the FL is absent in the experience of the language collective - the carrier of the FL, that is, when the so-called "realities" are described in the original text, i.e. objects and phenomena specific to a given people and country.

CONCLUSION

However, even in this case, a difficult task for a translator is feasible, since any human language is designed in such a way that it can be used to describe new situations that have never been encountered before. Otherwise, the language would not represent any communicative value, since in this language it would be possible to say only what is already known.

Thus, the discrepancy in the referential meanings of words and phrases FL and TL is not yet in itself an obstacle to establishing a relationship of translational equivalence between them - the identity of the denotation denoted by them turns out to be essential, due to which it becomes possible in speech to use words as equivalents that have in the language system unequal referential meaning (as we have seen from the examples, most often these are words that are in the relationship of "part and whole", that is, logically connected by the relationship of subordination) .

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