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“False friends” of the translator as asymmetric dialexemes, causes of occurrence

Annotation. The article deals with the phenomenon of linguistic asymmetry, which implies an erroneous translation of the language units of the source language due to the phonetic similarity with the units of the translating language. The author addresses the problem of similarity and apparent identity in the analysis of several typologies developed by scientists. From the point of view of the content plan, the following features of interlanguage synonyms can be distinguished: coincidence in some meanings and discrepancy in others; generic meaning in one language, specific meaning in another; discrepancies related to the transmission of realities; differences in stylistic characteristics; differences in lexical compatibility. From the point of view of the plan of expression, the disparity in some synonyms and the equivalence of the volumes of concepts are noticeable in others. The last group is words that have different meanings but belong to the same semantic field. These functional interferences clearly show the following logical and semantic relationships: causal, based on size, common functioning, based on the manufacturing process, etc.

Keywords: translation discrepancies; linguistic asymmetry; similarity; apparent identity; typology.

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Introduction

One of the most ancient types of human activity is translation, which appeared after the need for communication between people arose. As in ancient times, so in modern society, the research of linguistic aspects of translation occupies an important place in linguistics. And one of the interesting phenomena, in our opinion, is the phenomenon of language asymmetry, or “false friends of the translator”. It is known that it involves an erroneous translation of the language units of the source language due to the phonetic similarity with the units of the translating language. In addition, inappropriate translation can result from graphical, grammatical, or semantic identification, which leads to the creation of false equivalents. The greatest number of discrepancies occurs when translating international vocabulary found in media texts. This topic is of interest for both translators and those who study a foreign language. False friends of translator or interlanguage homonyms (interlanguage paronyms) - a pair of words in two languages, similar in spelling and / or pronunciation, often have a common origin, but differ in meaning. According to K.G. Gottlieb, “false friends of the translator” are words of two (possibly several) languages, which, due to the similarity of their form and content, can cause false associations and lead to erroneous

perception of information in a foreign language, and when translated - to distortions of content, errors in lexical compatibility, inaccuracies in the transfer of stylistic coloring, as well as in word usage.

Such scientists as V. V. Akulenko, R. A. Budagov, K. G. M. Gottlieb, N. K. Garbovsky, and I. N. Kuznetsova made a great contribution to the development of the classification of phenomena of interlanguage asymmetry. Turning to the typologies created by these scientists and try to contribute to the development of a unified classification.

Methodology of the research

The purpose of this work involves the following methods of linguistic research:

- the heuristic method is associated with the collection and documentation of language material.
- the descriptive method is necessary for the representation of linguistic facts.
- an explanatory description is used to represent typological patterns.
- the comparative method is necessary to identify common and specific features of similar linguistic phenomena.

Discussion

At first glance, it may seem, as V. V. Akulenko rightly notes, that the “false friends of the translator” are able to mislead only those people who start to learn the language and are poorly versed in it. In fact, as the researchers of this lexical category note, the situation is the opposite: the bulk of “false friends” (with the exception of the few, most obvious cases, mainly related to homonym) turns out to be dangerous for people who confidently and practically use the language, although they do not reach the degree of adequate unmixed bilingualism and therefore allow false identification of individual elements of the systems of foreign and native languages.

It is impossible to disagree with the Akulenko’s opinion that this is how numerous semantic calques and cases of violations of lexical compatibility or stylistic coordination occur not only in the processes of using foreign speech, but also in translations into the native language and even in the original word usage in the native language [1, pp. 371-372].

V. V. Akulenko concludes that the differences in pairs of “false friends of the translator” may be outlined in the following: there are significant differences in the conceptual content due to the uniqueness of the classifications of phenomena, properties and relations of the objective world that are characteristic of the semantics of each language. For example, *intelligence* – ум; *смьшленость*; *сведения*; *разведка*; *мыслящее существо* [2, p. 880]. In Russian *интеллигенция* – people of intellectual work, with education and special knowledge in various fields of science, technology, and culture; the social layer of people engaged in such work [3, p.944].

In addition, V. V. Akulenko emphasizes, there is a need to consider possible discrepancies in the stylistic characteristics of the associated words. For example, *manuscript* – *рукопись*, in Russian *манускрипт* (artistic) – *рукопись*, mostly about an ancient one.

The discrepancies in the lexical compatibility of the corresponding Russian and English words, V. V. Akulenko recalls, create significant difficulties in language learning and translation. For example, *situation* in the meaning of position, state is combined with *life-and-death*, indicating a critical situation. In Russian, there is a stable expression of the *question* (*вопрос*) (not the situation) *of life and death*.

Let us turn to the typology given by R. A. Budagov in his work “On new editions of dictionaries of the type “False friends of the translator”” [4, pp.65-68]. The author identifies several

types of relationships: 1) in one language, a word has a more general meaning than in another; 2) generic meaning in one language, specific meaning in another; 3) unambiguity in one language, polysemy in another; 4) interlanguage stylistic non – equivalence of words and phrases; 5) living, non – archaic meaning in one language, archaic meaning in another; 6) lexical free combination in one language – lexically non – free meaning in another language.

Illustrating some points of this classification. For example, the English *hymn* is a church hymn; in Russian, the *hymn* has a more general meaning – a solemn song adopted as a symbol of state or social unity. The same is true in *favorite* – *любимец; фаворит*. In Russian, *фаворит* is a high-ranking person who receives benefits and benefits from his patronage. Compare in Russian *lyceum* - 1) in pre-revolutionary Russia - privileged educational institution for men; 2) secondary educational institution in some countries. In English *lyceum* – 1) lyceum; 2) in American oral lecture hall, reading room; organization of lectures and concerts. In the latter, an obsolete value is observed.

K. G. M. Gottlieb, depending on the nature of the discrepancies in the dictionary, distinguishes four types of “false friends of the translator” [5, p. 160]. The first type includes words and semantic variants that denote various objects and phenomena in two languages. The second type is formed by words and semantic variants that denote similar objects and concepts but differ in shades. The third type includes words with the same meaning, but with different stylistic coloring or with limited use, indicated by the corresponding label. The fourth type covers words which have the same meaning in both languages, but they can only serve as equivalents in translation in some phrases or complex words.

For example, one language has a figurative meaning, while another does not. The match occurs along the line of the direct value:

In English *abortive* – *неудавшийся; биологически недоразвитый*; in Russian *абортивный* – *недоразвившийся*.

In English *abrasive* – *абразивный; шлифующий; резкий, грубый*; in Russian *абразивный* – *применяемый для шлифовки, полировки, заточки*.

In English *imperial* – *имперский*; in Russian *имперский* – *относящийся к империи; figurative meaning - «свойственный крупной державе, проникнутый духом превосходства над другими народами и государствами»; Имперские замашки; амбиции*.

Following the authors who suggested the relations of similarity or apparent identity (similarity and near identity) of the material of both languages in sound or function as a source of translation discrepancies, N. K. Garbovsky puts forward the idea of the presence of linguistic universals: the universality of vision and categorical reflection of the world. He argues that such universals give rise to the phenomenon of interlanguage asymmetry, which can be considered within the framework of translation interference.

The author tries to answer the question: to what extent is the problem of “false friends of the translator” relevant in the theory of translation? In fact, the problem exists, and the problem is quite complex. The more subtle the nuances of differences in the meanings of colliding words, the more complex the problem becomes. Moreover, dictionaries do not always help to distinguish these nuances, especially when it comes to polysemantic words. And, finally, the similarity of the form psychologically “presses” on the translator, blunts his vigilance, in a word, does not stimulate his appeal to the dictionary.

N. K. Garbovsky suggests the following classification. Out-of-position characterizes such relations between concepts when their volumes completely exclude each other: the volumes of out-of-position concepts do not contain any common object. As for the asymmetric dialects, at first glance, they cannot contain equivolumed concepts, because of their asymmetry. However, partially asymmetric dialects can sometimes still contain concepts of the same volume. These are primarily

dialectical synonyms. Concepts that are enclosed in asymmetric dialects are in the relationship of intersection, if their scope includes both common objects for both concepts, and different ones. Subordination characterizes such logical relations when the volume of one concept is completely absorbed by the volume of another. In the vocabulary, this is evident when comparing words that contain generic concepts (hyperonyms) with words that denote specific concepts or proper names (hyponyms) [6, p. 544].

Illustrating what has been said by the difference in the scope of concepts. Compare partially asymmetric dialects: English *intrigue* - 1) intrigue, secret intrigue; 2) oral. intrigue (love affair); in Russian *intrigue* – 1) *скрытные действия, обычно неблагоприятные, для достижения чего – нибудь, проуски*; 2) *a method of constructing a complex plot in a novel, drama (artistic)*; 3) *a love affair (archaic)*.

I. N. Kuznetsova, researching the process of lexical interference, points out diaparonyms (inappropriate mixing of similar words in the conditions of language contacts, leading to the appearance of "false friends of the translator") and offers her own semantic typology [7, p. 8]. Lexical units that come into interference are divided into three semantic classes: synonymous, contact, and distant. Synonymous diaparonyms do not match in all dictionary meanings. Contact interferons do not have a common dictionary meaning but are united by a functional similarity (metaphorical or metonymic), characterized by belonging to the same semantic field. Distant interference words do not have similar dictionary meanings, while they may or may not have functional similarity, in the latter case, their confusion is purely formal, motivated by sound similarity.

Considering all the above, it is possible to make a consolidated classification of interlanguage dialects. The illustrative material is taken from the British media and dictionary entries.

Formal interferents. The incorrect translation of such tokens is explained by phonetic similarity. *Iraq's top cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has called on his compatriots to unite to confront the «big danger» posed by Islamic State militants, and said politicians who cling to their posts are making a «grave mistake», piling pressure on Prime Minister Nuri al -Maliki to drop his bid for a third term* [8]. The word "compatriot" translated as "соотечественник", but not "патриот".

In this case, the focus is on the words formed with the help of word composition. For example, when translating the words *jellyfish (медуза)*, *ladybird BE, ladybug AE (божья коровка)*, the meaning is mixed if an equivalent translation is applied to each part of the word. In interferents as *landlord / landlady (арендодатель, хозяин (-йка) сдаваемой в аренду квартиры, домовладелец)*, *station-wagon AE (автомобиль-универсал)* interference occurs due to literal translation and onomatopoeia. Therefore, onomatopoeia is not the only reason for inappropriate translation.

Results

1. Interlanguage paronyms. Word pairs such as *leaning* and *learning*, which differ in both form and meaning, are often identified by students. *However, his critics accuse him of having an abrasive style and Islamist-leaning*s [9].

2. Cross-language synonyms. 1) Differences in the conceptual content from the point of view of the content plan: a) coincidence in some meanings and discrepancy in others. *Out-rage as jobless offered taxpayer-funded tattoo art classes to get them off the dole* [10]. Compare *dole* – "unemployment benefit; share, fate". In Russian "share" – "part of something; fate"; b) generic meaning in one language, specific meaning in another. *But their 90-minute set at a sold-out Islington Assembly Hall put meat on the bones of this modest recorded material: the quaintly optimistic Get Low morphed into a defiant folk anthem, profundity was borne out of Man On Wire's saccharine Sixties pop and*

beefy percussion from drummer Rob Steadman reinvigorated *On the Rocks*, which was precluded by field recordings of Antarctica's humpback whales [Ibid]. English "assembly" means "законодательное собрание, законодательный орган; собрание, сбор; ассамблея; монтаж, сборка". In Russian, "assembly" has only a specific meaning and it means "a general meeting of some international public organization; a ball in the time of Peter the Great"; c) discrepancies related to the transmission of realities. *The bill for the «design your own tattoo» sessions will be paid from the budget of an anti-poverty program launched by the Labor-run Welsh Government* [Ibid]. "Session" is used in the sense of "session" when it refers to a parliamentary or judicial session. This offer refers to training sessions, courses; d) differences in stylistic characteristics, including differences in the evaluative, emotional, and expressive colors of the time; e) local restrictions on the use of words. *The UK has edged up the global rankings in a major annual survey by the World Economic Forum (WEF)* [9]. The English "forum" meaning "forum, meeting" is stylistically neutral. Russian "forum" in the meaning of "mass meeting, congress" has the mark "high"; f) differences in lexical compatibility. *The leading economies in the index all possess a track record in developing, accessing, and utilizing available talent, as well as in making investments that boost innovation* [Ibid]. "Utilise" the sense of "use, dispose" can be lexically combined with the word *talent*. In Russian, for example, you can *dispose of industrial waste*, but not *talent*.

3. Discrepancies in the conceptual content from the point of view of the plan of expression: a) the unequal scope of concepts. *The role will be his main job, but his roster will take into account the duties and responsibilities he will continue to undertake on behalf of the Queen* [11]. Let's compare words *role* and *роль*. *Role* – participation; role (in a film, play); official functions. *Роль* – 1) the artistic image created by the playwright in the play, the script and embodied in the stage play by the actor; 2) someone's quality, usually impermanent, manifesting itself externally; 3) the set of the replicas of one actor in a play, film; 4) the kind, character, and degree of someone's participation in something; b) the equivalence of the volumes of concepts. *His critics say the move will make him increasingly authoritarian* [9]. *Authoritarian* is used in the sense of "авторитарный". Russian *authoritarian* (artistic) - based on the unquestioning submission to power, dictatorship. The volumes of the concepts are the same, the differences are obvious in the stylistic coloring.

4. Functional interferences. *The UK wins plaudits for adopting technology to enhance productivity, and for its general business environment* [Ibid]. *Adopt* in the meaning of "assimilate" and Russian *адаптироваться* in the meaning of "subject to adaptation" have different meanings but belong to the same semantic field.

In addition, while researching this issue, observations about functional interferences were made. It will contribute to understand better the phenomenon of interference.

Functional interferences present miscorrespondence of meanings, but when comparing the Russian and English variants, the following logical and semantic connections are observed:

1. Causal-effect. Compare the meaning of the adjective *canicular* – "hot days (in July and August)" with the Russian *каникулярный* – a break in classes (in educational institutions; in some countries – also in the work of the parliament) on public holidays or in the summer. *We have a canicular summer, with T° sometimes over 40°C* [Ibid].

2. Based on the size. Compare *cabin* - hut with Russian *кабина* – a small room for special purposes. *My search for the perfect log cabin certainly did not lack clarity of purpose* [12].

3. By the commonality of functioning. Compare *catapult* - slingshot from Russian *катапульта* - 1. In ancient times: a device for throwing stones, barrels of burning resin, used in the siege of fortresses; 2. a device for accelerating the launch of an aircraft from the deck of a ship or other small take-off area; 3. a training device for practicing the ejection of pilots and cosmonauts. *The simplest catapult is an elastic band stretched between the fingers with a V-shaped sign (although some claim that the index and thumb have greater strength)* [Ibid.]; 4. based on the manufacturing process. Compare *fabric* – ткань, matter. From Russian *фабрика* – an industrial enterprise with a machine method of production. *You've*

brought your sewing machine, and now you need some fabric [12, 13, pp. 3-14].

Thus, the category of "false friends of the translator" reflects a complex and multifaceted phenomenon of interlingual asymmetry, in which against the background of the similarity of the plan of expression of lexemes, there is a discrepancy between their content plans. The semblance of shape is often mistaken for linguistic universals, and translation is carried out on tracing paper, without referring to a dictionary, which can lead to incorrect lexical transformation and distortion of meaning. In this regard, a detailed study of the problem of "false friends of the translator" in the framework of lexical transformations will help the translator to choose the most corresponding equivalent in terms of exposure to it numerous factors of culturological, linguistic, socio-historical and psychological plans, despite external similarities forms of tokens.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it should be noted that the category of "false friends of the translator" reflects a rather complex and multifaceted phenomenon of interlanguage asymmetry and in translation is manifested in the absence of unambiguous correspondences between the units of the target language and the original language at the lexical, grammatical, and pragmatic levels. Cross-language asymmetry is often the cause of translation errors. Therefore, a deep understanding of this phenomenon will provide the translator with the right choice of the equivalent.

This typology, based on the application of two plans for the description of language entities, will help in the further development of the foundations and principles for the study of such a phenomenon as "false friends of the translator".

This classification, which encompasses almost all types of relations that exist in the sphere of asymmetric dialexemes, however, devoids single basis necessary for the construction of any typology. Semantic principles (asymmetry of private and general meanings, specific and generic, ambiguity and uniqueness) are interspersed with stylistic (asymmetry of living and obsolete, general, and special, referring words to different stylistic registers) and structural (opposing words to phrases).

For the theory of translation and translation practice, there is a need of a different classification of interlanguage discrepancies, built on the same grounds as the typology of translation transformations of the text. Indeed, if the linguist clearly understands the essence of this or that asymmetric phenomenon, he can choose the most acceptable way to translate the corresponding unit of the source text.

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Аударманың жалған (өтірік) достары тілдік ассиметрия диалексема түрінде табылу себептері

Аңдатпа. Мақалада тілдік ассиметрия құбылысы қарастырылады, ол аударма тілінің бірліктері мен фонетикалық ұқсастығына байланысты, тілдік бірліктерінің қате аудармасын меңзейді. Мақала авторлары ғалымдар жасаған бірнеше типологияны талдауда ұқсастық пен ұқсастық мәселесіне назар аударады. Ғалымдар ұсынған мына классификацияға жүгінеді: ресми кедергілер – жалпысөздік мағынасы жоқ сөздер; тіларалық паронимдер – формасы мен мағынасы бойынша ерекшеленетін, бірақ жиі анықталатын сөздер; тіларалық синонимдер және функционалды кедергілер. Мазмұн жоспары тұрғысынан тіларалық синонимдердің келесі ерекшеліктерін ажыратуға болады: бір мәндердегі сәйкестік және басқа тілдегі сәйкессіздік; бір тілдегі жалпы мағына, екіншісіндегі түрлік өзгешеліктер; шындықты берумен байланысты айырмашылықтар; стилистикалық сипаттамалардың айырмашылықтары; лексикалық үйлесімділіктегі өзгешеліктер. Өзге тілде берілу тұрғысынан кейбір синонимдерде теңсіздік, ал басқаларында ұғымдар көлемінің эквиваленттілігі байқалады. Соңғы топ - әртүрлі мағыналары бар, бірақ бір семантикалық өріске жататын сөздер. Бұл функционалды кедергілер келесі логикалық-семантикалық байланыстарды нақты көрсетеді: себеп-салдар, мөлшері, функционалдық ортақтығы, жасалу үдерісінің белгісі және т. б.

Түйін сөздер: аударма қателері; тілдік ассиметрия; ұқсастық; айқын сәйкестілік; типология.

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Ложные друзья переводчика как ассиметричные диалексеммы, причины возникновения

Аннотация. Рассматривается явление языковой ассиметрии, которое предполагает ошибочный перевод языковых единиц исходного языка из-за фонетического сходства с единицами переводящего языка. Авторы статьи обращаются к проблеме сходства и кажущейся идентичности при анализе нескольких типологий, разработанных учеными. Формальные интерференты – слова, не имеющие общих словарных значений; межъязыковые паронимы – слова, различающиеся и по форме, и по значению, но нередко отождествляемые; межъязыковые синонимы и функциональные интерференты. Разнообразие различий при анализе межъязыковых синонимов позволило выработать для

них собственную типологию на основе расхождения понятийного содержания с точки зрения планов содержания и выражения. С точки зрения плана содержания можно выделить следующие особенности межъязыковых синонимов: совпадение в одних значениях и несовпадение в других; родовое значение в одном языке, видовое – в другом; расхождения, связанные с передачей реалий; расхождения стилистических характеристик; различия в лексической сочетаемости. С точки зрения плана выражения заметны неравнозначность у одних синонимов и равнозначность объемов понятий – у других. Последняя группа – это слова, имеющие разные значения, но принадлежащие к одному семантическому полю. Данные функциональные интерференты четко проявляют следующие логико-семантические связи: причинно-следственные, по признаку размера, общности функционирования, признаку процесса изготовления и т.п.

Ключевые слова: переводческие ошибки; языковая асимметрия; сходство; кажущаяся идентичность; типология.

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