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LEXICAL PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION

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Abstract: This chapter presents the semantic and lexical problems in translation between Uzbek and English, and how to deal with them. It gives examples of such problems in translation and considers how to solve them. The chapter discusses the problem of a lack of equivalence in translation, which results in lexical gaps at the semantic field level. It also sheds light on the problem of improper vocabulary selection, assuming that there are equivalents to the source text words. Lexical ambiguity, which may result from the polysemous nature of a language or from its homonymic nature, is also discussed. In addition, there is discussion on synonymy and problems related to the translation of rhetorical devices.

Key words:lexical problems, self-inflicted, translation, sentence, sating, proverb, usual, academic, linguistic evolution, polysemantic.

Introduction. One of the major lexical problems is translating metaphorical meaning as a non-metaphorical, or vice versa. Another problem is translating synonyms, near-synonyms, polysemous items, collocations and homonyms. Other problems include problems of equivalence, lexical gaps, and denotative and connotative meanings. Some students mentioned other internal or self-inflicted problems which could be encountered in the process of translation – insufficient grammatical knowledge, spelling mistakes and mistakes of style. The source language sentence structures are not always the same in the target language. For example, a to-infinitive clause usually precedes the principal clause in English, while it is vice versa in Latvian. There are differences also in the morphological structure of words, for instance, in Latvian hyphenated words are hardly ever used. Students state that they often do not know the proper sentence structure or word order or have doubts how to incorporate the right adjectives, verbs, articles, etc. in the text. Translation, the art of converting the essence of one language into another, is a complex endeavor that extends beyond the mere substitution of words. Lexical challenges, involving the selection and interpretation of words, pose significant hurdles for translators. In this article, we will delve into the intricate world of lexical problems in translation, exploring the nuances and difficulties that arise when attempting to convey meaning across linguistic boundaries.

Cultural Nuances and Idiomatic Expressions: One of the foremost challenges in translation lies in preserving cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions. Certain phrases and idioms are deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of a language, making them resistant to a direct, word-for-word translation. Translators must carefully navigate this terrain, choosing equivalents that capture the intended meaning while maintaining cultural relevance.

Polysemy and Ambiguity: Words often carry multiple meanings, a phenomenon known as polysemy, and ambiguity can arise when a translator must discern the intended sense. The challenge is compounded when a word in one language has no direct equivalent in another. Translators must carefully consider context to ensure the accurate conveyance of the intended message.

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Linguistic Evolution and Change: Languages are dynamic and constantly evolving, with new words and expressions emerging over time. Translators face the challenge of keeping their translations current and relevant. Additionally, words that once had a specific meaning may undergo semantic shifts, requiring translators to be attuned to the evolving nature of language.

Untranslatable Words: Some words simply defy translation. Whether due to cultural specificity or the absence of an equivalent concept, certain terms resist being neatly rendered into another language. Translators may resort to providing explanations or employing creative solutions to convey the essence of these untranslatable words.

Register and Tone: The register and tone of a text, reflecting formality, informality, or emotional nuances, are crucial elements in translation. Mismatched register can alter the intended impact of a message. Translators must be adept at discerning the appropriate tone and adjusting their language choices accordingly.

Technical and Specialized Vocabulary: Technical or specialized fields often have their own lexicons, and translating documents in these areas requires a deep understanding of the subject matter. Precision is paramount, and the translator must possess not only linguistic proficiency but also expertise in the relevant field to accurately convey specialized terminology.

The study of the language is arguably the most hotly contested property in the academic realm. It becomes a tangle begetting multiple language discrepancies. That is why linguistics compares languages and explores their histories, in order to find and to account for its development and origins to give the answers to this or that language point. Due to the semantic features of language the meanings of words, their ability to combine with other words, their usage, the “place” they hold in the lexical system of a language do not concur for the most part. All the same “ideas” expressed by words coincide in most cases, though the means of expression differ. The principal types of lexical correspondences between two languages are as follows: 1) Complete correspondences; 2) Partial correspondences; 3) The absence of correspondences.

Let’s deal with them more exactly.

1) Complete lexical correspondences. Complete correspondence of lexical units of two languages can rarely be found. As a rule, they belong to the following lexical groups:

-proper names and geographical denominations:

- the months and days of the week, numerals.

-scientific and technical terms (with the exception of terminological polysemy).

2) Partial lexical correspondences. While translating the lexical unit’s partial correspondences mostly occur. That happens when a word in the language of the original conforms to several equivalents in the language it is translated into. The reasons of these facts are the following.

1. Most words in a language are polysemantic. That’s why the selection of a word in the process of translating is determined by the context.

2. The specification of synonymous order. However, it is necessary to allow for the nature of the semantic signs which an order of synonyms is based on. Therefore, it is advisable to account for the concurring meanings of members of synonymic orders, the difference in lexical and stylistic meanings, and the ability of individual components of orders of synonyms to combine.

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3. Each word affects the meaning of an object it designates. Not infrequently languages "select" different properties and signs to describe the same denotations. The way, each language creates its own "picture of the world", is known as" various principles of dividing reality into parts". Despite the difference of signs, both languages reflect one and the same phenomenon adequately and to the same extent, which must be taken into account when translating words of this kind, as equivalence is not identical to having the same meaning.
4. The differences of semantic content of the equivalent words in two languages. These words can be divided into their sub-group:

a) Words with a differentiated (undifferentiated) meaning: e.g. In English: to

swim (of a human being), to sail (of a ship), to float (of an inanimate object);

b) Words with a "broad" sense: verbs of state (to be), perception and brainwork (to see, to understand), verbs of action and speech (to go, to say).

c)" Adverbial verbs" with a composite structure which have a semantic content, expressing action and nature at the same time: e.g., the train whistled out of the station.

5. Most difficulties are encountered when translating the so called pseudo-international words. The regular correspondence of such words in spelling and sometimes in articulation coupled with the structure of word-building in both languages may lead to a false identification.

6. Each language has its own typical rules of combinability. A language has generally established traditional combinations which do not concur with corresponding ones in another language. Adjectives offer considerable difficulties in the process of translation. It does not always coincide with their combinability in the Ukrainian or Russian languages on account of differences in their semantic structure. Frequently one and the same adjective in English combines with a number of nouns, while in Ukrainian and Russian different adjectives are used in combinations of this kind. For this reason, it is not easy to translate English adjectives which are more capable of combining than their Ukrainian and Russian equivalents.

A specific feature of the combinability of English nouns is that some of them can function as the subject of a sentence though they do not belong to a lexicon-semantic category. The habitual use of a word, which is bound up with the history of the formation and development of its lexical system. This gave shape to clichés peculiar to each language, which are used for describing particular situations.

Translation is an activity that includes the interpretation of the meaning of a text in a language; and semantics refers to aspects of the meaning or interpretation of linguistic signs such as symbols, words, expressions or formal representations. Good translators should be able to adapt the message expressed in a text to a target language impregnated with the features of a totally different culture. As a result of this process, the recipient should not notice that he/she is faced with a translation. For this reason, the real success any translator can be proud of consists of being invisible to the eyes of a reader who regards the final text as a new construction and not as a product that has been under a transformation process, all this procedure can get a little harder for students and even professional in some cases. So In the present subject, the main problem is presented by students and their issues while doing text translations owing to lexical and semantic problems. There may be several drawbacks when carrying out a translation in English. In a general level, students who are in the process of learning a foreign language have to deal with semantic problems that differ according to the language; these problems include terminological variations, synonymy and antonyms, polysemy of some terms, lack of vocabulary

and semantics in the writing. Likewise, a problem has been identified that is due to the low performance of students in the realization of translations because of these obstacles in the lexicon and semantics, which are due to lack of knowledge of the vocabulary and variations in the distribution of the meanings and semantics of the texts, in addition to the other obstacles mentioned above It is necessary to establish strategies to improve this performance in students in order to overcome the obstacles established by confusions and lack of knowledge of the language, strategies that serve as a basis for students to overcome the obstacles posed. It can expose as main causes to this problem, the lack of practice, reading and prior research as well as the ignorance of topics and terms related to the text to be translated, different distribution of the components of meaning, compound words with different meanings, words that don't count with an equivalent, different wording according to the lexical choice as well as other reasons that complicate the translation process in the students. The translator must try to capture the voice that speaks to him from the text, to transmit the rhythm, the modulations, the cadence of the style, the tone. There is much behind the words, such as irony, sadness, a whole host of reverberations and subtleties.

Conclusion. In the labyrinth of translation, lexical challenges stand as formidable obstacles that demand a nuanced and skilled approach. Successful translation goes beyond mere word substitution; it involves an intricate dance between linguistic proficiency, cultural understanding, and a keen sensitivity to context. As language continues to evolve and global communication becomes increasingly interconnected, the importance of overcoming lexical challenges in translation cannot be overstated. Translators, armed with a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, play a crucial role in bridging linguistic divides and ensuring that the essence of communication remains intact across diverse linguistic landscapes.

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