

FEATURES OF LITERARY TRANSLATION

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Summary

The aim of this paper is to determine the phenomenon of artistic translation.

In modern philological science, there are various directions of studying the speech characteristics of characters as the primary component of a character's image in a literary work. Contemporary literary studies consider the speech characteristics of characters as one of the aspects of creating characters in literary texts of different genres. In linguistics, the subject of study is based on the material of oral speech and texts that present general, typological, and specific features of communication, as well as the specifics of the language of different social groups.

Recently, there has been a growing interest in issues related to reproducing characters' speech characteristics in literary translations. The need for further study of the features of creating speech characteristics and their adequate transfer to the target language underscores the relevance of this research. The results of the analysis shed light on the most common types of translation transformations for conveying speech characteristics, allowing conclusions to be drawn regarding the norms of the target culture.

Key words: translation, artistic translation, target language, translation transformations, speech characteristics.

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1. Introduction

The main goal of a translator is to create an adequate translation that conveys the content and form of the original text through another language (*Balakhtar, Balakhtar, 2011*). To achieve the best result, the translator must skillfully and accurately choose equivalents in the target language. This can undoubtedly pose certain challenges, as some words in English are polysemous, and the literary style does not always allow for any dictionary equivalent. The challenges become even greater when the translator needs to reproduce emotionally colored vocabulary, as the use of such words is one of the most common ways to express characters' traits and the author's attitude toward them (*Catford, 1965*).

2. The phenomenon of artistic translation

It is crucial to understand that one of the defining features of literary style is that all linguistic devices in such a text are devoted to creating an artistic image (*Lozovyi, 2003*). Imagery is the foundation of a literary text, and each specific means of expressing it distinguishes one text from another. Therefore, it is essential to remember that the key task is not only to convey the main idea and intent of the author but also to preserve all grammatical forms that carry expressive weight and contribute to the text's uniqueness.

Literary translation is, in fact, an art form that combines reproducing the original with creating a new work in another language (*Belova, 2002*). Key aspects highlighting the importance and complexity of literary translation include:

Firstly, relative independence, as the translation should be perceived as a standalone work rather than a mere copy of the original. The translator must preserve the spirit and style of the original but also have the freedom to convey it in the new language.

Secondly, linguistic and cultural differences, as different cultures have unique values, norms, and worldviews. The translator must be sensitive to these differences and consider them to make the translation understandable and in line with the target audience's mentality. Language differences also mean that each language has unique grammatical and lexical characteristics. Some expressions or ideas are easier or harder to convey in another language, which can affect the translation.

Thirdly, the translator's individuality is also important. Each translator has a unique style and worldview that are reflected in their choice of words, phrases, and rhythm in the translation. The personal style of the translator can significantly influence how the target audience perceives the text.

Fourthly, translations across languages and time periods: various translations of the same work may differ in their perception of the original and the choices made by translators. The history of translation can also impact the reception of the work in different cultures (*Shevtsova, 2012*).

In conclusion, literary translation is a complex and artistic process that requires a deep understanding of both the original text and the target language. Each translation is a unique work influenced by the translator's personality, cultural context, and the characteristics of the target language.

There are two main approaches to translation: direct (literal) and indirect. Each of these approaches has its advantages and limitations, and the choice between them depends on the specific context and purpose of the translation.

Direct translation is used when it is possible to convey the meaning and structure of the original text literally, without significant changes. This approach is particularly effective when the two languages have similar grammar and structure and when it is important to maintain accuracy in information.

The methods of direct translation include borrowing, calque (literal translation), and transposition (*Savory, 1968*).

One of the main methods of direct translation is borrowing. Borrowings help the translator convey not only the meaning of a lexical unit but also its stylistic effect, local color, and the atmosphere of the original. They are particularly useful for conveying specific terms, artistic images, or cultural nuances that may be challenging to render by other means.

However, it is essential to exercise caution and consider the context and audience of the translation. Borrowings can be effective, but their use also carries the risk of "false friends," where a word in the other language has a different meaning or association. Therefore, the translator must carefully study the context and ensure that the chosen word reflects the intent and style of the original (*Aliqberov, 2000*). Borrowings are indeed an important tool in translation, especially when cultures have active linguistic and cultural exchanges. They reflect the interaction between different cultures and communities and contribute to the enrichment of languages and cultures.

Calquing refers to the process of literally conveying the syntactic or lexical structure of the original text using linguistic means of the target language. This may involve word-for-word translation of phrases, expressions, or even structural constructions from the original.

Regarding older, established calques, which may undergo semantic evolution and become "false friends," this is indeed a significant issue in translation. Since the meanings of words and expressions can change over time, translators need to be aware of this and use translation approaches that account for the current meaning of words and expressions (Dyka, 2017).

Creating new calques or using word formation based on calquing are effective ways to avoid borrowing and retain the accuracy and effect of the original in translation, particularly when there are structural or semantic differences between languages. Such approaches can help adapt the text better to the target language and its audience.

It is also worth noting that French scholars Jean Darbelnet and Jean-Paul Vinay, in their 1958 work *Comparative Stylistics of French and English*, put forth the idea that both calquing and literal translation are used in direct translation (Savory, 1968).

However, Ukrainian linguists, particularly V.I. Karaban, following more recent linguistic trends, do not distinguish between the concepts of "calquing" and "literal translation."

As for literal translation, it is used when it is essential to preserve the core meaning and structure of the original text rather than stylistic features. However, literal translation can be limited in situations where:

1. The translated message conveys a different meaning or has stylistic features that are important for preserving the atmosphere or effect of the original.
2. The translated message makes no sense in the context of the target language or is structurally incorrect.
3. In the target language's metalanguage, there is no equivalent for some lexical units or constructions from the source language (Dyka, 2017).

Indirect translation is used when it is impossible or inappropriate to adhere strictly to literalness, for example, due to cultural, stylistic, or semantic differences between languages. In such cases, the translator must use analogous or equivalent means in the target language to convey the meaning and effect of the original (Vinay, Darbelnet, 1995). A significant feature of indirect translation is the preservation of the original's effect, even at the expense of changes in the form or structure of the text. This approach is especially useful when there are linguistic or cultural barriers that complicate direct translation.

Indirect translation employs various types of translation transformations. Let's examine these in detail.

3. The main types of translation transformations

Transformation is an essential component of the translation process. It involves changes to formal (lexical or grammatical transformations) or semantic (semantic transformations) components of the source text while preserving the intended information to be conveyed (Karaban, 2001).

Translation transformations are techniques applied when there are no direct equivalents for the linguistic means used in the original text in the target language, or when such means cannot be used for various reasons.

Depending on the nature of the linguistic units in the original language and their transformations, translation transformations used in text translation can be categorized into several groups:

1. Lexical transformations pertain to words or lexical units in the original language. They include:

– transcription and transliteration, where the translator may use phonetic or letter representations of words or names.

– lexical-semantic substitutions, which change the semantics of a word or phrase, including specification, generalization, modulation, etc.

2. Grammatical transformations affect the grammatical structure of sentences and phrases. They include:

– sentence division, which involves breaking complex sentences into smaller ones for better understanding.

– combining simple sentences into complex ones or changing the structure of sentences.

– grammatical substitutions, which refer to changes in grammatical structures to achieve adequacy in the target language (*Karaban, 2001*).

3. Lexico-grammatical transformations combine both lexical and grammatical aspects of the original text. They may involve both types of transformations and transitions from lexical units to grammatical ones and vice versa.

These transformations help translators create an adequate and comprehensible translation, even when verbal equivalents are absent or unsuitable in a specific context of the target language.

In particular, modulation is an important method in translation that allows for varying the message to preserve the spirit and stylistic features of the target language. This method is especially useful when a literal or transposed translation may be grammatically correct but does not reflect the structure or stylistic nuances of the target language.

There are two types of modulation:

Free modulation – this involves changing the message in the translation, which can occur at any time and under any circumstances. The translator can use it to achieve the desired stylistic or semantic effect in the target text.

Fixed modulation – this occurs when the change in the translation becomes established and is recorded in dictionaries or becomes a subject of teaching. In this case, modulation becomes a standard of the target language and is used as a normative way of expression.

The transformation of free modulation into fixed modulation can happen when it becomes widely accepted and frequently used in speech. Fixed modulation can reflect the evolution of the language and become an important part of communication (*Karaban, 2001*).

Transposition involves shifting a word or phrase from one part of speech to another or using one part of speech in the function of another. Transposition can be useful for achieving specific goals of the original text or for preserving stylistic or linguistic features of the original (*Karaban, 2001*).

Transposition in translation can be either mandatory or optional.

Mandatory transposition is used when the source text has a construction or form that is unsuitable for the target language, and the translator must transform it into a more acceptable or understandable structure.

Optional transposition is used when the translator has the option to change the structure or form of the original text, but it is not obligatory. In this case, the translator can choose between different translation methods, depending on the context, style, and purpose of the translation.

It is also important to note that transposition can include the rearrangement of elements within a phrase, where the order of words or elements is changed to achieve a certain effect in the translation (*Karaban, 2001*).

Lexical equivalents refer to situations where two texts describe the same situation or idea but use different stylistic and structural means to express that idea (*Karaban, 2003*).

A lexical equivalent is a linguistic unit that is functionally equivalent to another linguistic unit, or a combination of words that perform the syntactic role of other words in a sentence (Karaban, 2001).

Lexical equivalents are often used in the translation of fixed expressions, idioms, proverbs, and other structures that have a fixed form and specific meaning. By knowing the corresponding expressions in both languages, the translator can provide an accurate and effective translation that reflects the idea or situation, taking into account linguistic and cultural differences (Karaban, 2001).

In cases where the target language lacks precise lexical equivalents for certain situations or concepts present in the source text, adaptation is used. Adaptation involves creating a text that should be understandable and acceptable to the target language audience, even if it requires changing or adapting certain aspects of the original text (Dyka, 2017).

Linguistic-ethnic adaptation is particularly important when the text is aimed at an audience that has limited knowledge of the language or specific features in understanding certain concepts. Adapting texts for children, non-specialists, or other specific audiences may involve using simplified language, explanatory comments, and illustrations to ensure clarity and ease of understanding. It is essential to remember that adaptation does not always mean losing the essence or structure of the original text. It can be carried out in such a way as to preserve the main idea and integrate it into the context of the target language and the audience for which the translation is intended (Ovcharenko, 2022).

Thus, the choice of translation method depends on the specific text, its purpose, audience, and structure. To achieve an accurate and effective translation, the translator must choose translation approaches that best suit the specifics of the text at hand.

4. Conclusions

Translation of artistic literature is quite challenging, and the use of social dialects presents even more complex tasks for the translator, as the primary goal of artistic translation is to achieve maximum adequacy. To create an adequate translation, the translator selects from a wide range of translation methods or employs translational transformations.

The choice of translation method depends on the specific text, its purpose, audience, and structure. To achieve an accurate and effective translation, the translator must choose translation approaches that best match the specifics of the text in question.

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