

LECTURE 8

LEXICAL PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

2. Lexical problems of translation. Complete lexical correspondences.
Partial lexical correspondences.
3. Types of lexical transformations.
4. Absence of lexical correspondences.

LEXICAL PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION.

Due to the semantic features of language the meaning of words, their usage, ability to combine with other words, associations awakened by them, 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.

As it is impossible to embrace all the cases of semantic differences between two languages, we shall restrict this course to the most typical features.

The principal types of lexical correspondences between two languages are as follows:

- I Complete correspondences.
- II. Partial correspondences
- III. The absence of correspondences

^ *COMPLETE LEXICAL CORRESPONDENCES*

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

1. Proper names and geographical denominations;
2. Scientific and technical terms / with the exception of terminological polysemy/;
3. The months and days of the week, numerals.

PARTIAL LEXICAL CORRESPONDENCES

While translating the lexical units 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, and the system of word – meaning in one language does not concur with the same system in another language completely / compare the nouns “house” and “table” in English, Kazakh and Russian/. That’s why the selection of a word in the process of translating is determined by the context.

2. The specification of synonymous order which pertain the selection of words. However, it is necessary to allow for the nature of the semantic signs which an order of synonyms is based on consequently, it is advisable to account for the concurring meanings of members in synonymic order, the difference in textical and stylistic meanings, and the ability of individual components of orders of synonyms to combine: e.g. dismiss, discharge / bookish/, sack, fire / colloquial/ the edge of the table – the rim of the moon;

3. Each word effects the meaning of the object it designates. Not unfrequently languages “select” different properties and signs to describe the same denotations. The way, each language creates it’s own “picture of the word” , 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 kinds, as equivalence is not identical to having the same meaning /e.g. compare: hot milk skin on it – горячее молоко с пенкой/.

4. The differences of semantic content of the equivalent words in two languages. These words can be divided into three sub – groups:

1. 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/; ; in Russian: плавать, плыть
2. 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/, partially desemantized words /thing, case/.
3. “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.- – Дав свисток, поезд отошёл от станции.

5. Most difficulties are encountered when translating the so called pseudo – international words i.e. words which are similar in form in both languages, but differ in meaning or use. The regular correspondence of such words, in spelling and sometimes in articulation / in compliance with the regularities of each language. Coupled with the structure of word-building in both languages may lead to a false identification /e.g. English moment, in Kazakh - момент; in Russian – момент, важность, значительность/.

5. Each language has its own typical rules of combinability. The latter is limited by the system of the language. A language has generally established traditional combinations which do not concur with corresponding ones in another language.
6. Adjectives offer considerable difficulties in the process of translation, that is explained by the specific ability of English adjectives to combine. It does not always coincide with their combinability in Kazakh or Russian languages on account of differences in their semantic structure and valence. Frequently one and the same adjective in English combines with a number of nouns, while in Kazakh and in 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 Kazakh and Russian equivalents /A bad headache, a bad mistake .../ сильная головная боль, грубая ошибка./

- A specific feature of the combinability of English nouns is that some of them can function as the subject of a sentence, indicating one who acts, though they do not belong to a lexico- semantic category Nomina Agentis. This tends to the “predicate – adverbial modifier” construction being replaced by that of the “subject – predicate”.
The strike closed most of the schools in New – York.
- В результате забастовки большинство школ Нью – Йорка было закрыто.

Of no less significance is the habitual use of a word, which is bound up with the history of the language and the formation and the development of its lexical system. This gave shapes to cliches peculiar to each language, which are used for describing particular situations/ e.g. in English “ Wet point”, in Russian “Осторожно, окрашено”.

TYPES OF LEXICAL TRANSFORMATIONS.

In order to attain equivalence, despite the differences in formal and semantic system of two languages, the translator is obliged to do various linguistic transformations. Their aims are to ensure that the text imparts all the knowledge inferred in the original text, without violating the rules of the language it is translated into the following 3 elementary types are seemed most suitable for describing all kinds of lexical transformations:

- I. lexical substitution;
- II. supplementation;
- III. omissions / dropping/

1. Lexical substitution.

1. In substitutions of lexical units words and stable word combinations are replaced by others which are not their equivalents. More often 3 cases are met with:

1. A concrete definition – replacing a word with a broad sense by one of a narrower meaning: He is at school – Он учиться в школеж; У мактабда укийди. He is in the army – Он служит в армии;
2. Generalization- replacing a word’s narrow meaning by one with a broad sense: A Navajo blanket –; индийское одеяло.
3. An integral transformation: How do you do – Салем; Здравствуйте

2. Antonymous translation is a complex lexico – grammatical substitution of a positive construction for the negative one / and vice – versa/, which is coupled with a replacement of a word by its antonym when translated / Keep off grass — Не ходите по траве./

4. Compensation is used when certain elements in the original text cannot be expressed in terms of the language it is translated into. In cases of this kind the same information is communicated by other or another place to as to make up the semantic deficiency:
5. “He was ashamed of his parents..., because they said don’t” and “she don’t”... /Celindjer/ - Он стеснялся своих родителей, потому что они говорили “хочут” и “хотите”(перевод Раи Ковалёвой)

II. Supplementations. A formal inexpressibility of semantic components is the reason most met with for using supplementation as a way of lexical transformation. A formal inexpressibility of certain semantic components is especially of English word combinations

	N	+	N	and	Adj	+	N
Pay claim		-	требование		повысить		заработную плату

Logical computer- компьютер.

III. Omissions/ dropping /. In the process of lexical transformation of omission generally words with a surplus meaning are omitted / e.g. Components of typically English pair – synonyms, possessive pronouns and exact measures/ in order to give a more concrete expressions. To raise one’s eye – brows – поднять брови – в знак изумления/.

ABSENCE OF LEXICAL CORRESPONDENCES

Realiae are words denoting objects, phenomena and so on, which are typical of people. In order to render correctly the designation of objects referred to in the original and image associated with them it is necessary to know the tenor of life epoch and specific features of the country depicted in the original work.

The following groups of words can be regarded as having no equivalent: 1. realiae of everyday life – words denoting objects, phenomena etc, which typical of a people / cab, fire – place/; 2. Proper names and geographical denominations; 3. Addresses and greetings; 4. The titles of journals, magazines and newspapers; 5. Weights, linear measures and etc.

When dealing with realiae it is necessary to take special account of the pragmatic aspect of the translation because “the knowledge gained by experience” of the participants of the communicative act turns out to be different. As a result, much of which is easily understood by an Englishmen is in comprehensible to an Kazakh or Russian readers or experts the opposite influence upon them. It is particularly important to allow for the pragmatic factor when translating fiction, foreign political propaganda material and advertisements of articles for export.

Below are three principle ways of translating words denoting specific realiae:

1. Transliteration / complete or partial /, i.e., the direct use of word denoting realiae or

its roots in the spelling or in combination with suffixes of the mother tongue / каб, сандал, изба /;

2. Creation of new single or complex word for denoting an object on the basis of elements and morphological relationships in the mother tongue / skyscraper –

3. Use of a word denoting sometimes close to / though not identical with / realia of another language. It represents an approximate translation specified by the context, which is something on the verge of description/ peddler – торговец- разносчик /.

QUESTIONS FOR SELF-CONTROL:

1. What are the principal types of lexical correspondences between the two languages? What lexical units are liable for complete lexical

correspondences?

3. What cases refer to partial lexical correspondences?
4. What is understood under lexical substitution?
5. In what cases is supplementation is applied?
6. What are cases of absence of lexical correspondences?

INDEPENDENT WORK:

1. Lexical problem of translation
2. Translation of polysemantic words
3. Translation of Proper names and geographical names
4. Translation of words of measurement

OBLIGATORY LITERATURE:

1. Barkhudarov L.S. Language and Translation. M. -2020
2. Frederick Fuller. The translation's handbook. L.N/Y. - 2014
3. Catford I.C. F Linguistic theory of translation. L.N/Y. - 2021
4. Peter Newmark. Approaches to translation. London. - 2019
5. Levitskaya T.R, Fiterman A.M. The problems of translation on the material of the contemporary English language. M.192010
6. Language Transfer Cross – Linguistic influence in language learning. Cambridge University Press. 1992003

ADDITIONAL

LITERATURE:

1. Nida.E. Towards a science of translation. Leiden.-2019
2. Nida.E. Linguistics and ethnology in translation problems. Language structure and Translation. Atanford. 1-2013

3. Roger. N. Bell. Translation and translating . Theory and practice. London, New York. 1995.
4. Shvaytser A.D. Translation and Linguistics. M. 2020
5. Salomov G. Tarjima nazariyasiga kirish. T. 2019
6. Salomov G. Tarjima nazariyasi asoslari. T. 2007