The Study of Conservation of Idioms in the Translation of the English Literary Texts

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Abstract

The relevance of this article is that idioms make up a vivid and original part of the national-linguistic world. And their translation into another language with a different view of the world causes a lot of difficulties. That is why many linguistic research works are devoted to this issue and different techniques and methods of the translation of phraseological units were suggested (the PU). A significant number of errors made by translators in the translation of phraseological units proves that the problem is quite acute. Also one of the most interesting and attractive area from a research perspective are changes occurring in the field of phraseology, largely reflecting the level of development of the language. Hence there is the rapid development of new classifications and methods of translation PU that should be explored. The purpose of this study is to examine the translation methods of English phraseological units in the literary works in Russian. The leading method of the study of this problem is the comparative method to identify common and distinctive features of the English and the Russian phraseological units. As a result of the comparative analysis of the literary texts were identified the following methods of translation of PU: idiomatic equivalent method; idiomatic analogue method; literal translation of phraseology (tracing); descriptive method and lexical translation. The theoretical significance of the study is that this study could contribute to the development of the problems of translation of PU in literary texts. The practical significance of the study is in the possibilities of using the results obtained in the preparation of mono- and bilingual dictionaries, training manuals on comparative phraseology, and developing of special courses for students and those who are interested in studying English.

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Introduction

Every language is a reflection of culture. And phraseological units are the bright proof of it. They convey the history and life of the people. Idiom is highly informative unit of language. (Elzhurkaeva, 2013) That is why the problem of translation of PU is the subject of many scientific works. There is no clear opinion in this research field. There are various ways and methods of how to translate the PU. For example, Pushkin thought that the expressed unit of the author should be re-expressed by a translator, and Tolstoy thought that the main thing is to express the impression.

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The rapid development of any language, leading to a change in the existing rules, of course, enriches it, adapts it to irreversibly changing life as a whole and suggests that language possibilities are virtually limitless. Also one of the most interesting and attractive area from a research perspective are changes occurring in the field of phraseology, largely reflecting the level of development of the language. However, despite the large number of research works, this topic does not lose its originality and relevance, but on the contrary, it gives extensive material for research, as there are always new types of abnormalities that should be studied and classified. Such transformations are called occasionalisms (Kunin, 1986). For the first time the term "occasionalism" was introduced by one of the most prominent researchers in the field of contextual transformation of FU in our country A.V. Kunin. Therefore, the appearing of new types of deviation from the norm leads to the new methods of translation of PU.

The translation practice originated in the 20-30s of the twentieth century. The translators of that time studied formal deviations from the original. In the 30s there was a school of literary translation, which was created by I.A. Kashkin, who was the theoretician and practitioner of translation. Later A.B. Fedorov’s articles were released, there were the basics of translation "On Literary Translation", "Introduction to the theory of translation" (Fedorov, 1968). Thanks to the works of A.D. Shveytser, L.S. Barkhudarov, V.N. Komissaroy the theory of translation has been developed more intensive.

Concerning the translation of idioms they paid a lot of attention in theoretical works of such linguists as Komissaroy, Vinogradov, Kunin, Shadrin, Telia, Bally. According to Kunin, the English phraseological units are divided into two groups (Kunin, 1964):

- phraseological units, which have equivalents in the Russian language;
- phraseological units which have not got equivalents in the Russian language.

The methods of translation of idioms were identified by many scientists-linguists: A.V. Kunin, V.N. Komissarov, N.F. Smirnova, etc. There are following methods of translation of idioms: idiomatic equivalent method (this method helps to conserve the whole complex of the translated unit, in other words between phraseological units should not be differences in the metaphorical and emotional-expressive color and semantic content); idiomatic analog method (idiom with the same figurative meaning, based on another image); literal translation of phraseology (tracing can be used only if the result can be easily perceived by Russian readers and does not create the impression of unnatural and unusual norms of the Russian language); descriptive method (translation of the meaning of PU); lexical translation (phraseological unit is translated with lexical means) (Komissaroy, 1965).

In this article, we will study these translation methods of the English phraseological units in the literary texts into the Russian language.

Materials and methods

2.1. Research methods

During the study the following methods of research were used: the method of comparison and generalization, continuous sampling method, method of quantitative analysis, method of categorical sampling, descriptive-analytical method, contextual method.

2.2. The experimental base of the research


2.3. The stages of the research

The study was conducted in three stages:

At the first stage (preparatory stage), modern condition of the problem under study in linguistic theory and practice was analyzed; the program of the study methodology was developed.

At the second stage (the main stage), comparative method was introduced in order to identify frequently used
methods of translation of phraseological units in the English literary texts into the Russian language. At the third stage (the final stage), systematization and generalization of the research results were carried out, the theoretical insights were refined; the processing and clearance of received research results were carried out.

Results
3.1. The structure and content of the study
This study researches the translation methods of phraseological units of English literary texts into Russian. The rapid development of any language, leading to a change in the existing rules, of course, enriches it, adapts it to irreversibly changing life and shows that language possibilities are virtually limitless. One of the most interesting and attractive from a research perspective are changes occurring in the field of phraseology, largely reflecting the level of development of language. A significant number of errors made by translators in the translation of phraseology indicates that the problem is quite acute. With the development of language can be seen the rapid development of new classifications and methods of translation of PU that should be explored.

3.2. The stages of the research
The study included the following stages of the experimental work:
- make a selection of the translation of these phraseological units in the Russian language;
- analyze these PU;
- define the method of translation;
- identify the methods of translation of PU, which are used more frequently

3.2.1. Summative stage

These novels were selected not by chance. Firstly, the novels of J.R.R. Tolkien and J.K Rowling have one genre - fantasy, therefore, they have similar imagery of PU; secondly, J.R.R. Tolkien is not only a writer, but also a linguist and philologist, the creator of artificial languages and lover of deviations from standards of the language, including the occasionalisms. From the research point of view it is interesting to study these deviations. Thirdly, the novel of J.K Rowling, Tiffany D.D. Torn and "Harry Potter and Cursed the Child" has been selected because the translation of the book was released recently, December 7, 2016, which is enough fresh material for research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The English idiom</th>
<th>The translation of this idiom</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>The method of translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The hobbit jumped nearly of his skin when the hiss came in his ears, and he suddenly saw the pale eyes sticking out at him.</td>
<td>У хоббита чуть сердце не выпрыгнуло, когда он вдруг услышал шипение и увидел два бледных, уставившихся на него глаза.</td>
<td>The translation of this idiom saves the figurative meaning, but it is based on the another image. If the English version has the image of the skin, that is literally to jump out of the skin, in the Russian translation the heart jumps. The idiomatic analogue method</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Well, it is the first time that even a mouse has crept along carefully and quietly under my very nose and not been spotted,” said Balin.

Упаси Бог, чтобы я осуждал Торина, да растет его борода беспредельно, а только он всегда был упрямцем и не отличался гибкостью.

This case is a vivid example of a pun, in other words a wordplay. The English version of this image is easy to beat, stiff neck - this stubborn and stiff - is inflexible. A translator used descriptive method to preserve the pun.

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<td>A witless worm have you become. Therefore be silent, and keep your forked tongue behind your teeth.</td>
<td>А тебе, неразумному червяку, лучше бы держать язык за зубами.</td>
<td>It is remained the whole set of values and it is the same in all options. In this case, the author used such transformation as wedging. Due to the word forked it is intensified the emotional impact on the reader. But in the Russian version it is has been omitted.</td>
<td>idiomatic equivalent method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you really think you had thrown dust in all our eyes?</td>
<td>Да неужто ты и впрямь надеялся, что сумел задурить нам головы?</td>
<td>The translation of this phraseologism retained a figurative meaning of PU, but the stylistic properties have changed. The Russian version is colloquial. Therefore we can not assume that this is a complete analog.</td>
<td>idiomatic analogue method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s a fine view, no doubt, Mr. Frodo, but chilly to the heart, not to mention the bones.</td>
<td>Вид отсюда, конечно, красивый, но даже на сердце становится холодно, не говоря уже о костях.</td>
<td>Imagery of this phraseological unit is easily perceived by the Russian readers and does not create the impression of unnatural and unusual norms of the Russian literal translation of phraseology (tracing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I’m not going to <em>rise to your bait</em>, Albus Potter.</td>
<td>Я не попадусь тебе на крючок, Альбус Поттер.</td>
<td>The translation of this phraseological unit saved the figurative meaning, but it is based on another image. If the English version has the image of the bait, the Russian translation has the image of the hook. The emotional and stylistic value of the idiom is saved.</td>
<td>idiomatic analogue method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albus, you just know how to <em>get under my skin...</em></td>
<td>Альбус, ты просто очень хорошо умеешь довести меня до белого каления...</td>
<td>The translation of this phraseological unit saved the figurative meaning, but it is based on another image – &quot;a very strong heating of the metal&quot;. The English idiom literally is translated as &quot;get under the skin.&quot;</td>
<td>idiomatic analogue method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have I just <em>put my foot in it?</em></td>
<td>Не то ляпнула, да?</td>
<td>In this case, the Russian translation has not saved the idiom.</td>
<td>lexical translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The weight of the world upon his <em>shoulders</em>.</td>
<td>Груз мировых проблем давит ему на плечи.</td>
<td>Saved image load and shoulders in both languages.</td>
<td>idiomatic equivalent method</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this novel, most of phraseological units are used in the usual form, but it is not always possible to preserve in translation the phraseological unit, which leads to the use of descriptive or lexical methods, i.e. the idiom in translation is not saved. Of course, it simplifies the language and deprives him of expressivity. But there are not always equivalents or analogues of phraseological units in both languages.

3.2.2. The forming stage
According to the results of diagnostics and comparative analysis of the translation of the English phraseological units into the Russian language, it can be assumed, firstly, that the translators of these novels N. Rakhmanov ("The Hobbit, or There and Back Again"), M. Spivak ("Harry Potter and the Cursed Child"), V. Volkovsky, D. Afinogenov ("Lord of the Rings") tried to use the methods that allow to save phraseological units. Since idiom is a bright expressive means.

Secondly, it was found occasional use of phraseological units. Such changes of idioms as wedging, phraseological pun, phraseological context saturation and others. The translators save pun, choosing equivalents, where it is possible, or using the descriptive method of translation because the pun should be understandable to the readers of the translated language.

Thirdly, in the most cases, the stylistic and emotional character of the phraseological units are saved. There are some examples where the translators can change the stylistic properties of PU in conversational lines of characters. The Phraseological units with national color were not identified.

Table № 4. The percentage ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>The method of translation of the phraseological unit</th>
<th>The amount of the phraseological units</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Метод фразеологического эквивалента</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Метод фразеологического аналога</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Калькирование г г г г</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Описательный метод</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Лексический перевод</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The study confirmed that the translation of the phraseological units is a laborious process, because it is necessary to take into account the stylistic features of idioms and save its lexical meaning. The translation of the phraseological units were analyzed and during the study, it was concluded that all the methods of translation of idioms were actively used by the translators. The most commonly used methods include such methods as idiomatic equivalent and idiomatic analogue. In the translation of phraseological units the translators try to save the idioms and its the emotional and stylistic features. The translators can not afford to lose in the translation such technique as a pun, because this wealth of works of literature. Such methods as a method of tracing and descriptive translation may not always be understandable to the readers of different cultures, and when the translators use the descriptive method, idioms are lost, that is great loss as a means of expressivity of literature.

This article could be useful in the theoretical terms, because it makes a contribution to the development of problems of translation of the phraseological units in the literary texts. In practical terms it is the possibility of using the results of the article in the preparation of mono- and bilingual dictionaries, training manuals on comparative
phraseology, and development of special courses for students and those who are interested in study of English.

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