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GRAMMATICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE TRANSLATION OF FICTION (based on Stephen King's novels)

This article deals with some theoretical problems connected with the general translation theory, classifications of the translation transformations by different linguists. The use of some grammatical transformations in the process of translating Stephen King's novels is analyzed.

This work is devoted to the analysis of some grammatical transformations used in the translation of Stephen King's works into Russian.

The relevance of our research is determined by the need for a comprehensive study of lexical and lexico-grammatical transformations used in translation to achieve adequacy and equivalence of translation.

The theoretical basis of the study was the classification of lexical and lexicogrammatical transformations proposed by famous linguists: L. S. Barkhudarov, V. N. Komissarov, Ya. I. Retsker and T. A. Kazakova.

The theoretical significance of the work lies in the comprehensive consideration of lexical and lexico-grammatical transformations in the works of Stephen King.

The material for the analysis was a number of works written by the famous American writer Stephen King.

Translation from one language into another necessarily involves the use of grammatical transformations. Following the leading researchers of the translation process, we understand grammatical transformations as the restructuring of a sentence (a complete change in its structure) and various substitutions — both at the level of syntax and at the level of morphology. Grammatical transformations are primarily caused by differences in the structure of languages, although there are other reasons, both purely grammatical and lexical.

When comparing grammatical categories and forms of English and Russian, the following phenomena are usually found:

1) the absence of a particular category in one of the languages;

2) partial coincidence;

3) complete coincidence.

The need for the usage of grammatical transformations naturally arises only in the first and second cases. In Russian, in comparison to English, there are no grammatical categories such as the article or gerund, as well as infinitive and participial complexes and the absolute nominative construction. Partial coincidence or discrepancy in the meaning and use of the corresponding forms and constructions also requires grammatical transformations. This may include such phenomena as a partial mismatch of the number category, a partial mismatch in the forms of the passive construction, an incomplete coincidence of the forms of the infinitive and participle, some differences in the expression of modality, etc.

Let's consider some of the features of lexical and lexico-grammatical transformations used in the translation of Stephen King's works.

As noted earlier, translation transformations in practice in their "pure form" are rare – usually, as will be seen from the examples below, they are combined with each other. Thus, translators use various transformations both separately and in a "complex".

Let's consider some examples.

1. She's as Baptist as you can get. 'Она баптистка до мозга костей'.

In this example, we come across a separate method of functional replacement: an English figurative expression is translated by an adequate figurative expression of the Russian language.

2. I thought I would just wait and see, you know. Wait and see if the preconditions for such a horrible future began to come into place. 'Понимаешь, я думал: поживем – увидим. Поживем и увидим, появятся ли реальные приметы этой чудовищной перспективы'.

First, in this example we can observe the permutation of sentence members in order to comply with the norm of the Russian language. Secondly, there are a number of transformations here. The first transformation is tracing (i.e, exact (literal) translation) of 'wait' and 'see' by the Russian equivalent of «поживемувидим». Then comes the simplification of the English construction 'to come into place' in one word «появиться». The concept of future as «будущее» is concretized to the word «перспектива». And the word 'preconditions', which has the meaning of 'предпосылки', was translated by the translator as real signs, which is explained purely contextually.

3. I guess your mind can screw you over pretty well, and I kept thinking – right up to the incident with the road-lining machine – that it was just a phase I was going through and that it would get better. 'Мозг может сыграть злую шутку с каждым, и я полагал, пока не произошел случай с дорожной разметкой, что эти симптомы – явление временное и все наладится'.

In this example, we are faced with the following transformations.

Firstly, there is a functional replacement of the rude form of the word 'screw' ('переспать с женщиной') with a rather neutral expression (neutralization) 'сыграть злую шутку'.

Secondly, when translating the passage 'right up to the incident', the technique of antonymic translation was used: 'пока не произошел случай'.

Thirdly, the pronoun 'it' is concretized according to the context in «эти симптомы», and the word 'phase' undergoes semantic development and takes the form of «временное явление» in translation.

In conclusion, we can say that the research work we have done indicates the importance of further detailed study of this topic.