

THE FREEZING STRATEGY OF TRANSLATING PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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Despite the growth in the number of works devoted to phraseology, general theoretical questions still remain exposed. In fact, phraseology is often presented as an applied science rather than a field of basic research. The question of phraseological units from the perspective of multilingualism and interlanguage translation is debatable. Since phraseological units carry evaluative information content, they are prone to variability, and this is where the problem of translating such an expression arises. The novelty of this research lies in the consideration of the problem of translation of phraseological units from the point of view of the “freezing” strategy. The purpose of this work is to analyze the potential for “freezing” Ukrainian phraseological units in the context of French ones. The tasks are to carry out a comparative analysis of phraseological units with a similar semantic load and to determine the degree of their direct translatability. It is shown by examples, at the level of interlanguage translation, that the freezing strategy when translating phraseological units can correspond to two models of constructing different meanings, creating linguistic and extralinguistic problems for translation.

The results of the analysis showed that the translation from Ukrainian far exceeds the potential for “freezing” into French language due to its peculiarities and complexity of the linguistic structure. It was revealed that, depending on the peculiarities of the structure of the language and culture, the translation of the phraseological unit may include a “freeze” strategy. The semantic load of the phraseological unit is transmitted even when the morphosyntactic parameters are changed. The semantic load and the influence of the original text on its readers. If the recipient language does not have a straight equivalent, the translator has two options: either translate the phraseological unit literally, or to contain an illustrative version in the text and in the note offer a literal translation.

Opportunities for practical application – the study is aimed at the prospect of new positions for comparative research on interlanguage translation.

СТРАТЕГІЯ ЗАМОРОЖЕННЯ ПЕРЕКЛАДУ ФРАЗЕОЛОГІЧНИХ ОДИНИЦЬ

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Ключові слова: *полілінгвізм, інформативність, семантичне навантаження, стратегія заморожування, міжмовний переклад, синтаксична вісь.*

Незважаючи на зростання кількості праць, присвячених фразеології, дотичні загальнотеоретичні питання все ще залишаються відкритими. Фразеологію часто представляють як прикладну науку, а не сферу фундаментальних досліджень. Дискусійне питання про фразеологізми з боку багатомовності й міжмовного перекладу. Оскільки фразеологічні одиниці мають оцінний інформаційний зміст, вони схильні до варіативності, і саме тут виникає проблема перекладу такого виразу. Новизна дослідження полягає в розгляді проблеми перекладу фразеологізмів із боку стратегії «заморожування». Метою роботи є аналіз можливостей «заморожування» українських фразеологізмів у контексті французького перекладу. Завдання полягають у проведенні порівняльного аналізу фразеологічних одиниць із подібним семантичним навантаженням і визначенні ступеня їх безпосереднього потенціалу до перекладу. На прикладах на рівні міжмовного перекладу показано, що стратегія заморожування під час перекладу фразеологізмів може відповідати двом моделям конструювання різних значень, створюючи лінгвістичні й екстралінгвістичні проблеми для перекладу. Результати аналізу показали, що переклад з української мови значно перевищує можливості «заморожування» французькою мовою через особливості й складність мовної структури. Виявлено, що залежно від особливостей структури мови й культури переклад фразеологічної одиниці може містити стратегію «заморожування». Семантичне навантаження фразеологічної одиниці передається навіть у разі зміни морфосинтаксичних параметрів, смислового навантаження та впливу тексту оригіналу на його читачів. Якщо мова одержувача не має прямого еквівалента, у перекладача є два варіанти: або перекласти фразеологізм дослівно, або вмістити ілюстративний варіант в тексті й у примітці запропонувати дослівний переклад. Можливості практичного застосування: дослідження спрямоване на перспективу нових позицій для порівняльного аналізу міжмовного перекладу.

Introduction The problematic and definition of phraseological units occupies a significant place in linguistic research due to the inconsistency and complexity of this category. The study of translation methods and terminological tools of phraseological units is still marginal. The English school of linguists [12] prefers to use the term “idiomatic expression, idiom, translation of idioms, etc.”, Ukrainian scientists prefer “phraseological units, translation (direct, indirect, phraseological) phraseological units” [7], and relatively recently the French school of theoreticians introduced the concept of “freezing phraseological units” [14]. Research [14] refers to an attempt to define the concept of “freezing”, its characteristics, its semantic fields and various structures. [14] analyze the semantic and morphosyntactic problems of the complex phenomenon of freezing associated with classification, terminology, characteristics. From the perspective of this work, issues related to the translation of phraseological units are considered from the point of view of a comparative approach. [3] analyzes this problem as a whole. Based on the linguistic problems of machine translation, the scientist presents a description of constructions with support verbs in Korean and Russian. [5], for its part, raises the problem of equivalence of fixed sequences in intra-linguistic and interlanguage translation, pointing out that the translation of phraseological units is a way to «say differently» either in the same language or in another language, that is, it raises the problem of phraseological synonymy. Among the works concerning the problem of translation of phraseological units, [15] analyze “freezing” and “unfreezing” in translation practice, describing in detail the mechanisms of each process, in order to improve the freezing process for interlanguage translation.

The linguistic method of freezing fluctuates in the choice of terminological tools: “frozen expressions”, “frozen sequences”, “frozen elements” [14; 15]. It is issued that each name covers one of the possible applications of the phenomenon of freezing in the translation of phraseological units at the interlanguage level.

In the context of this work, the term “translation freezing” is used, since it acquires a broader meaning of “a way of expressing something” [14] and, thus, can react to the non-compositional nature of phraseological units. In addition, the paper examines the potential of phraseological units to non-fixed combinatorics in translation, that is, to “freeze” or “non-freeze” in translation. But it should be noted that often the features of the translated language imply absolute freedom in organizing lexical units on the syntagmatic axis. When translating phraseological units, there are certain difficulties: semantic opacity (characterized by semantic integrity, that is, global

meaning, not derived from the meaning of the lexical units that make it up: therefore such phraseological units are not compositional) [9]; morphosyntactic restrictions (characterized by a close connection with semantic opacity, but endowed with morphosyntactic restrictions that affect the verb or arguments. Phraseologisms do not allow morphosyntactic transformations that relate to the so-called free sentences); paradigmatic restriction (in free sentences, different phrases can easily alternate with others belonging to the same paradigm) [8]. Thus, the factors limiting the combinatorial possibilities of translating phraseological units (grammatical and lexical) are internal. The external ones include cultural and social conventions. When translating phraseological units, it is necessary to master these two internal (linguistic) and external (cultural) aspects, that is, to assimilate the semantic dimension of fixity, which includes all internal and external factors. The semantic dimension of phraseological units is rather difficult, but at the same time it is the most important at the level of translation [2].

The problem of translating phraseological units lies not only in the fact of recoding individual lexical units from one language to another. The translation of these expressions is carried out in the same way as any translation performed by a person, it includes the implementation of a cognitive process, which is for the translator to understand the text / speech in order to make it understandable for recipients who do not have access to the original [1].

Interlanguage translation creates problems simply because of the presence of two different linguistic systems. With the translation of phraseological units, the situation is even more complicated and less obvious, especially between languages that do not have the same historical and cultural heritage. Thus, translation from Ukrainian into French sometimes goes beyond the scope of problems associated with differences in categorization and grammaticalization between these languages, and the strategy of “freezing” translation here is a mechanism for crystallizing the idiomaticity of the language [6; 14]. The translation of phraseological units is, first of all, a direct translation – the freezing of the syntagmatic axis of the language, and only then the search for equivalents. This method of translation, stands out in comparative style, and is effective because it can significantly reduce the semantic loss of the translated units. In addition, it should be noted that, although the criterion of the semantic opacity of phraseological units may vary within the same language depending on geographical variations [4; 13], the situation becomes more delicate if socio-historical and cultural variations are taken into account, as in the case translation of phraseological units of the German language.

The vocabulary includes both mono-lexical units and polylexic units. The first group is widely represented in many diverse linguistic studies [10]. As for the second one, it remained aloof for a long time or was partially analyzed in specific works [11]. The so-called “frozen expressions” largely abandon syntactic variations and have an opaque meaning that cannot be inferred from the meanings of the lexical units that constitute them. In other words, freezing rejects syntactic manipulation (blocking syntactic combinatorics), and is characterized by semantic opacity (non-compositional meaning). “Freezing” translation takes an interdisciplinary position, and is associated not only with lexicology, morphosyntax, semantics, but also pragmatics, where the context of the utterance can sometimes determine the meaning of such expressions with floating terminology. Thus, the interlingual translation of phraseological units creates linguistic and extralinguistic problems.

The purpose of this study is to identify the problems that arise when translating phraseological units from Ukrainian into French.

Tasks:

- to identify the linguistic characteristics of the selected phraseological units;
- to analyze the presence of these characteristics in the specified languages;
- to provide examples of phraseological units in Ukrainian, prone to “freezing” in the above languages.

The importance of this study is explained by the lack of research related to the “freezing” strategy in the translation of phraseological units at the interlanguage level.

Methods and materials.

From the perspective of this work, the operation of translating phraseological units was divided into two main stages.

The first stage is the perception of phraseological units (cognitive method). The problematic was in the linguistic and intercultural aspects of perception:

- linguistic aspect – understanding the syntax of the source language. The selected phraseological units were considered as an inseparable whole. For example, if the translator does not recognize the meaning of the phraseological unit “to burn bridges”, he will, of course, come to misunderstandings or misinterpretations. Translation of the lexical units that make up this expression gives a sequence that has nothing to do with its global meaning;
- cultural aspect – translation usually meets cultural, political, scientific and other requirements.

In this case, the translation method may differ and deviate from the semantic axis. In order to achieve effective translation, the translator must first of all analyze and understand the cultural content underlying a particular phraseological unit.

The second stage consisted in the repeated expression of the attesting person. Thus, the cultural content of the phraseological unit was re-expressed in accordance with the discursive mechanisms adopted by the host culture.

At the first stage, a theoretical analysis of phraseological units was carried out on the examples of Ukrainian and French languages, in order to eliminate the difficulties of interlingual translation of phraseological units. At the second stage, an analysis of the potential for freezing when translating selected examples was carried out to reveal the degree of influence of direct translation on the perception process of expressions structured in accordance with the specific rules of the corresponding language and rooted in its culture. This study is based on interpretation theory, in which meaning is the object of the translation process. Since it was revealed that the form of the original text (phraseological unit) is involved in the construction of meaning, a two-way method of analysis was chosen: interpretive translation (general meaning, transmitted cultural content and the situation of pronouncing the expression in question) and analysis and comparison of the proposed translations. The analysis of the study is limited to a small number of examples due to the initial stage of work in this perspective.

Results.

The results of a comparative analysis of Russian, English, German phraseological units showed that not all phraseological units lend themselves to “freezing” during translation (Table 1).

Table 1

The phraseological units’ potential of “freezing” during translation

| Ukrainian variant | French variant |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Бідний як церковна миша | Etre gueux comme un rat d'église |
| 2. Спалювати мости | Brûler (или couper) les ponts |
| 3. Жити як кішка із собакою | S'entendre comme chien et chat |
| 4. Апетит приходить під час їжі | L'appétit vient en mangeant |
| 5. Шлюби здійснюються на небесах | Les mariages sont écrits dans le ciel |
| 6. Буря в склянці води | Une tempête dans une tasse de thé |
| 7. За всім стоїть жінка | Cherchez la femme |
| 8. Бути чи не бути | To be or not to be |
| 9. Скелет у шафі | Cadavre dans l'armoire |
| 10. Як дві краплі води | Comme deux gouttes d'eau |

The translation of the following phraseological units was considered from the point of view of the potential for a translation strategy of “freezing”:

1. Complete “freeze” during translation.
2. The Ukrainian versions tend to “freeze” in translation, while the French translation complicates the structure of the sentence.
3. In this phraseological unit, the French version is distinguished by the choice of the lexeme “s’entendre” – to get along.
4. In the French, the gerund form is used, while in the Ukrainian it is absent. Thus, the strategy of “freezing” touched the Ukrainian phraseological unit conditionally.
5. In this phraseological unit, French analogues also slightly change the morphological structure.
6. It should be noted that many phraseological units go back to one primary source – the Bible. Using phraseological unit 6 as an example, it is shown that Ukrainian version has the potential for freezing.
7. Cherchez la femme is a frequently used phraseological unit in Europe. The Ukrainian version is provided in the form of tracing paper (look for a woman).
8. Phraseologisms are often characterized by untranslatability. In Ukrainian, there is a “freeze” in translation, while French uses the original version.
9. It turned out that the names of objects are one of the most frequently used words in the formation of phraseological units. The images are similar in languages, however, when translating, a change in imagery often occurs.
10. Phraseologism lends itself to the strategy of “freezing” when translating, taking into account the minimum shift of the syntagmatic axis.

Conclusions.

A translation comparative analysis of the Ukrainian phraseological units into French is done. One uses the strategy of “freezing” the translation, which aroused the interest of French linguists relatively recently. It was found that the interlingual translation of phraseological units creates linguistic and extralinguistic problems. When translating the selected phraseological units, first of all, the semantic aspect was taken into account, and then the structure was considered in close connection with the meaning. Taking into account the linguistic functioning of phraseological units, it was revealed that the translation of such expressions causes formal problems. Moreover, not all phraseological units are identically translated, that is, not all expressions are endowed with the potential to “freezing translation”. According to a comparative analysis of the translation of ten phraseological units, it was revealed that, depending on the peculiarities of the structure of the language and culture, the translation of the phraseological unit may include a “freezing” strategy. The semantic load of the phraseological unit is transmitted even when the morphosyntactic parameters are

changed and effectively reflects both the semantic load and the influence of the original text on its readers. The strategy of “freezing the translation” of phraseological units includes understanding the semantism and morphosyntactic structure of the phraseological unit, sufficient knowledge of the culture and language of the source and, therefore, the true meaning of the source text. If it is impossible to “freezing the translation”, the translator must find a direct equivalent. If the recipient language does not have a direct equivalent, the translator has two options: either to translate the phraseological unit literally in order to convey the local flavor to the recipients, accompanying this translation with an explanatory sentence explaining the meaning of the original text, or vice versa, that is, to include the explanatory version in the text and in the note offer a literal translation.

Thus, the prospects for further research in this direction are the expansion of the experimental base of examples of phraseological units to deepen the analysis of their potential to “freeze” in interlingual translation.

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