

Analysis of the Strategies of Idiom Translations Used in the Russian Translation of *Pride and Prejudice*

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ABSTRACT

*It is difficult for literary translators precisely to translate idioms because of the cultural differences between a source language and a target language. This article is aimed at identifying and highlighting the most used translation strategies of idioms in the book *Pride and Prejudice* from English to Russian. A qualitative analysis was conducted to identify such translation strategies. Baker's translation strategies were used as a theoretical framework for the research.*

Keywords: Literary translation, phraseology, idiom, translator, translation techniques

INTRODUCTION

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, an idiom is an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements or in its grammatically typical use of words. In her book *In Other Words*, Dr. Mona Baker, a professor of Translational Studies at Manchester University in the United Kingdom says that idioms are “Frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components.” Every language has its own idioms that

are related to its history, culture, and way of living. Idioms are phrases that cannot be divided into single words otherwise, it loses their meaning. "We can say that an idiom is a number of words which, taken together, mean something different from the individual words of the idiom when they stand alone" (MsMordiew 1983: 4). Therefore, it presents challenges for language learners. They have only one way of understanding idioms and that one way is learning them by heart. Also, translators also should know idioms because when they come across idioms, they should be able to recognize it and not translate the separate words. Both English and Russian languages have idioms.

According to Mona Baker "A person's competence in actively using the idioms and fixed expressions of a foreign language hardly ever matches that of a native speaker. The majority of translators working into a foreign language cannot hope to achieve the same sensitivity that native speakers seem to have for judging when and how an idiom can be manipulated. This lends some support to the argument that translators should only work into their language of habitual use or mother tongue, at least in genres which are characterized by creative or playful use of language" (Baker 1992: 70). However, literal translators should strive to familiarise themselves with the idioms of the target language to a certain degree.

METHODS

This study is descriptive-qualitative research, which presents the data with a content analysis method. The aim of this study is the identification of strategies used by the translator in the translation of *Pride and Prejudice* from English into Russian. The source of the data is taken from the subject of the analysis. The subject of this research focuses on the two versions of novels, the original version written by Jane Austen entitled *Pride and Prejudice* and the Russian version "Гордость и предубеждение". The Object of the study is the Russian translation of English idioms in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and its original book. Those idioms are analyzed to realize what varieties of idioms and the

interpretation techniques utilized by the translator and the way it is realized. After the information had been collected, then they had been analyzed step by step. Firstly, figuring out and choosing the idioms through italicizing and bolding the words. After classifying the information, I defined the evaluation of the way the implementation of translation techniques had been carried out in translating English idioms into Russian in *Pride and Prejudice* novel into the data table. Finally, reporting the end result of the evaluation and the remaining step is drawing the realization approximately the implementation of translation techniques in translating idioms in *Pride and Prejudice* Russian translation novel and giving tips associated with the end result of the problem.

RESULTS

According to the result of the analysis, it is found that four out of five idiom translation strategies proposed by Baker are used to translate idioms. They are using an idiom of similar meaning but a dissimilar form (UISMDF), translation by paraphrase (TBP), and translation by omission (TBO). Using an idiom of similar meaning and form (UISMF) is not used in the translation process of the book *Pride and Prejudice*.

“Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. It is often possible to find an idiom or fixed expression in the target language which has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression but consists of different lexical items” (Baker 1992: 79). One example is “Keep your breath to cool your porridge” (Austen 1813: 21) is translated as “Береги дыхание, чтобы остудить кашу” (Литвинец 2008: 18) (It’s better to stay silent than talk). Another example is the idiom “Heal the breach” (Austen 1813: 57) is replaced with “залечить давнюю рану на теле ” which is another idiom in Russian with similar meaning. “Fix one’s eyes on” (Austen 1813: 23) is translated by replacing it with an idiom of similar meaning in Russian “впилась в глаза” (Литвинец 2008: 19). It is possible to find plenty of examples of this strategy in the Russian translation of the book *Pride and Prejudice*.

“Translation by paraphrase. This is by far the most common way of translating idioms when a match cannot be found in the target language or when it seems inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target text because of differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target languages. You may or may not find the paraphrases accurate; the following examples are quoted as they appear in the original documents to illustrate the strategy of paraphrasing rather than to explain the meanings of individual idioms” (Baker 1992: 81). Examples of the translation by paraphrase strategy can be found in the book. The idiom “in good spirits” (Austen 1813: 68) is translated into Russian using the translation by paraphrase strategy. The translator uses “превосходнейшем расположении духа” phrase which means “in good mood.” Another example, “He is eat up with pride” idiom is translated in the same way as “набит гордостью до пяток”(he is so conceited) which is the paraphrased version of the meaning of the same idiom. One more example of translation by paraphrase: “He was in her good graces” (Austen 1813: 66) is translated as “оказался явным фаворитом” (she liked it).

Translation by the omission of a play on idiom. This strategy involves rendering only the literal meaning of an idiom in a context that allows for a concrete reading of an otherwise playful use of language. The idiom catch someone’s eye [3, p.9] is used in the novel, and the Russian version is as follows: “Поймав взгляд”. In this example, the idiom is partly omitted.

Translation by the omission of the entire idiom. As with single words, an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. This may be because it has no close match in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons. The idioms “touch one’s heart” (Austen 1813: 60), “set someone right” and “change color” are entirely omitted during the translation because of the unnecessary of the meaning in the Russian version of the novel.

“Using an idiom of similar meaning and form. This strategy involves using an idiom in the target language which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the source-language idiom and, in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items. This kind of match can only occasionally be achieved” (Baker 1992: 77). This

strategy is not used to translate idioms in the novel as this strategy is quite hard and only similar languages can have idioms of similar meaning and form.

CONCLUSION

This paper is an analysis of the strategies used in English to Russian translation of idioms in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The research used Mona Baker's strategies for the analysis of the translation of idioms. It was found that translation by paraphrase is the most common strategy used to translate idioms in the book because the English and Russian languages are quite distant from each other, therefore, finding a similar idiom in both languages is a challenging task for a translator. The study's findings are beneficial for beginning translators since they can help them choose better strategies for translating idioms. In fact, they might follow the techniques employed by experienced translators in this area as a guide while translating English literature into Russian.

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