

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSLATION COMPETENCES

РОЗВИТОК ПЕРЕКЛАДАЦЬКИХ КОМПЕТЕНТНОСТЕЙ

The problems of translation competences development is the main topic of this article. Translation is an interlingual communicative act between communities which use different languages. General and professionally oriented communicative competences (linguistic, sociolinguistic and pragmatic) ensure effective translation in academic and professional environment. The article familiarizes with the fundamental principles and concepts of the modern theory of translation, the techniques and ways of solving translation problems, translation difficulties, the rules and types of translation. The knowledge of the theory of translation helps the translator to transfer the material in the original form, without violating the norms of the target language, to establish lexical, grammatical and stylistic correspondence and the translation accuracy.

Key words: competence, interlingual communication, translation theory, source language, linguistic and extralinguistic knowledge, translation correspondence.

Проблеми розвитку перекладацьких компетенцій є основною темою цієї статті. Переклад – це міжмовний комунікативний акт між спільнотами, які використовують різні мови. Загальні та професійно орієнтовані комунікативні компетенції (лінгвістичні, соціолінгвістичні та прагматичні) забезпечують ефективний переклад в академічному та професійному середовищі. Стаття знайомить з фундаментальними принципами та поняттями сучасної теорії перекладу, методами та способами вирішення проблем перекладу, труднощами перекладу,

правилами та типами перекладу. Знання теорії перекладу допомагає перекладачу передати матеріал в оригінальній формі, не порушуючи норм мови перекладу, встановити його лексичну, граматичну та стилістичну відповідність і точність.

Ключові слова: компетентність, міжмовне спілкування, теорія перекладу, мова джерела, мовне та екстралінгвістичне знання, адекватність перекладу.

Проблемы развития переводческих компетенций являются основной темой данной статьи. Перевод – это многоязычный коммуникативный акт между сообществами, которые используют разные языки. Общие и профессионально ориентированные коммуникативные компетенции (лингвистические, социолингвистические и прагматические) обеспечивают эффективный перевод академической и профессиональной литературы. Статья знакомит с основополагающими принципами и понятиями современной теории перевода, методами и способами решения переводческих задач, трудностями перевода, правилами и видами перевода. Знание теории перевода помогает переводчику перевести материал оригинала, не нарушая норм языка перевода, устанавливать его лексическое, грамматическое и стилистическое соответствие и точность.

Ключевые слова: компетенция, межъязыковое общение, теория перевода, язык оригинала, лингвистические и экстралингвистические знания, адекватность перевода.

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Formulation of the problem in general. The role of translation in the development of future specialist competence can hardly be overestimated. Translation process is an irreplaceable activity which brings societies and individuals together and which helps them have dialogue and communicate with each other. The history of translation science dates back to the beginning of history of mankind. Translation arose as a result of the communication needs of communities which use different languages. This fact inevitably stipulates **topicality** of this issue. Translation is considered a foreign language form of the original message, an act of interlingual communication. It is an act where at least three participants are involved: the source of the translation, the author of the source-language message, the translator who acts in dual capacity. Besides the term “translation”, there is the term “interpretation”. Interpreting as an activity is a specialized form of translation. While translation was strongly oriented toward the theoretic framework, interpreting has always been concentrating on the practical and pedagogical aspect of the activity. There are new forms of translation which appeared not long ago, such as machine translation. The latest development in modern translation practice defines **novelty** of the article. Modern special-

ists should transmit information effectively only when they conform to the process and individual peculiarities of translation. **The object** of the research is to consider translation as an interlingual communicative act which includes two phrases: communication between the sender and the translator and communication between the translator and the receptor of the newly produced target-language. **The subject** of the research is to trace the relationship between the theory of translation and its practice, to acquire and activate general and professionally oriented communicative competences (linguistic, sociolinguistic and pragmatic), to ensure effective translation in academic and professional environment. Among them are: the formations of the students’ professionally oriented communicative competencies; knowledge and understanding of the subject area; the ability to define, analyze and competently use the basic language categories of scientific and technical translation; the ability to determine, analyze and competently use the basic language structures of scientific and technical translation; the ability to define, analyze and competently use the main language difficulties, characteristics and styles of scientific and technical translation; the ability to work autonomously; to develop skills in the use of information and communication technologies; the

ability to work in a team; valuation and respect for cultural diversity and multiculturalism [5, p. 30].

Analysis of the latest achievements and publications. Many authors worked in the field of theory and practice of translation. A.V. Fedorov [14] and Vinay and Darbelnet [7] discussed the translation equivalence, which accompanied typologies of translation and was called "procedures", "techniques" or "strategies". Another investigation of translation theory in Europe is referred to 1984. The publication of two books in German: "Foundation of a General Theory of Translation" by Katharina Reiss and Hans Vermeer [12] and "Translational Action" by Justa Holz-Mänttari occurred at one and the same year [12]. From these two theories came what is known as Skopos theory, which gives priority to the purpose to be fulfilled by the translation instead of prioritizing equivalence. Susan Bassnett and André Lefevere in "Translation - History - Culture" [2] quickly represented the exchanges between translation studies. Edward Balcerzan shared Polish experience [1], while Douglas Robinson shared the American experience [11]. Among the domestic authors it should be mentioned: Komissarov V. [6], Bevez N. (2010) [3] and others. The Skopos theory was introduced by Vermeer in 1989 [13]. It comes from the Greek word 'aim' or 'purpose' and stresses the interactional, pragmatic aspects of translation. This theory was criticized by the linguistically oriented researchers such as Newmark (1991) on the ground of the oversimplification that is inherent in functionalism, focuses on the message at the expense of richness of meaning [9].

Previously unsolved parts of general problem emphasis. Non-professional translation has appeared not long ago. It refers to the translation activities performed by translators who are not working professionally, usually in the ways made possible by the Internet. These practices have appeared with the recent democratization of technology and the popularization of the Internet. Volunteer translation initiatives have emerged all around the world and deal with the translations of various types of written and multimedia products. The problem has not been learnt enough. Each scholar considers the most important, different terms have been used to label non-professional translation. The development of the problem is very important because a lot of people use non-professional translation in everyday life [10, p. 45].

The scientific and technical translator should be aware of the specialty he translates. If he translates newspapers and publicity material he should keep abreast of current international events, know the political structure, the economy, the geography of various countries, etc. Any translator must study literature, history, and culture of other nations and especially of the target language country. He should know the life and customs of its people, be familiar of the realities. By realities we mean the peculiarities

of everyday life, the state structure of each country, its customs and beliefs – all that constitutes the original and national peculiarities. Ignorance of the realities leads to errors in translation or deprives it of its national color [2, p. 34]. It can also create a false impression about the country and its people. Besides the translator must deeply know the language from which the translation is made and the language into which it is made. Unfortunately, there are still translations from subtitles in practice, and this is a very unpleasant phenomenon. The profound knowledge of the language is the knowledge of all its aspects without which grammatical, lexical and stylistic difficulties cannot be practically solved.

The aim of the article is to familiarize with the fundamental principles and concepts of the modern theory of translation, the techniques and ways of solving translation difficulties, rules, types of translation, etc.

The main research material statement. The fundamental principles and concepts of the modern theory of translation and its techniques bring up to the question of the role and significance of translation theory and the degree of theoretical training of a translator. The theory of translation not only formulates the goals and objectives of translation, but also suggests the ways of translation problems solving. Its task is to establish lexical, grammatical and stylistic correspondence, as well as discrepancies existing in two languages, and suggest possible ways of translation. Translation theory is by no means a collection of recipes of how to translate. Very often there are general methods of translation that are mentioned in the theory of translation and are used in practical translation. But many cases require a completely individual solution. The translator should transfer the material in the original form, without violating the norms of the language into which the translation is made. The form is understood in purely linguistic terms, as a set of means of the transmitted content expression. The reproduction of the original content and form should be as accurate as possible. The translation accuracy is often achieved precisely by deviations from the original text and replacements [8, p. 51].

When translating scientific and technical literature, it should be remembered that it is characterized by a wide use of terms. The term is precise and, as a rule, unambiguous for a given field and requires accuracy in transmission. Therefore, the translator must know the terminology. Scientific and technical texts are also characterized by a strict, logical structure of the sentence. As a rule, there is no emotional coloring in it, so it allows getting great textual closeness to the original. The translator is mainly looking for equivalent grammatical constructions, such as English infinitive and gerundial phrases.

Newspaper texts are very diverse. The messages and articles of the information character are the most

concise, businesslike and dry in style. Accuracy in translating such messages and articles is often achieved by syntactic restructuring of sentences, structural changes and the use of lexical correspondences. All these replacements are due to the need to follow the norms of the target language and the norms of newspaper style [5, p. 33].

The same rule often applies to the translation of headings, which sometimes have a very different character. Such substitutions do not violate the accuracy of the translation; they are caused by different newspaper style norms. Articles, essays and publicist materials are characterized by one common feature - the presence of emotional coloring, which is created by various stylistic means and words of emotional meaning. Emotional coloring should be maintained in translation. In English, emotional coloring is often created by definitions, and when translating definitions into Ukrainian, the translator is confronted with the question of compatibility, which is often different. It should be particularly noted that colloquialisms and jargonisms are characterised the English newspapers style but are not typical for Ukrainian newspapers. In these cases, the substitutions also have to be done [4, p. 159].

The essence of adequate translation is the use of substitutions and correspondences. If it is impossible to transfer all the elements of the original text in translation, the translator may resort to equivalent substitutions; an equivalent effect is created in the translation. Such substitutions are possible because the same effect can be achieved by various stylistic means and the same stylistic tool can perform different functions. The ability to resort to adequate replacements, to sacrifice the less significant one in order to achieve an equivalent effect requires the translator's tact and resourcefulness. Only if these qualities are present, a translator can achieve the adequacy in translation. The problem of adequacy is largely the problem of correct translation of lexical and phraseological, grammatical and stylistic correspondences. Adequacy should not be understood in the narrow sense. This is a broad concept, which includes a dialectical approach to the question of the nature of translation accuracy and the correct understanding of the very concept of "accuracy". The concept of adequacy also implies the possibility of substitutions (with the help of which the original material is recreated in translation by means of another language), producing the same effect and performing the same function. The concept of "adequate translation" includes three components: correct, accurate and complete transmission of the content; transfer of the language form of the original text; impeccable correctness of the language which weakens translation [14, p. 121]. All three components of an adequate translation constitute an inseparable unity. They cannot be separated one from another. The destruction of one of them inevitably

leads to the disturbance of the others. Completely natural additions should be distinguished from the so-called "interpretive", that is an explanatory translation, when, in the opinion of the translator, it is necessary to enter explanatory words in the text translation without which the place would remain incomprehensible to the reader. Such additions are not arbitrary. Thanks to them, the translator gets the opportunity not to overload the text with comments and footnotes. Sometimes the translator, in addition to the explanatory words in the text, still makes a footnote if he thinks that it is a question of some curious reality, an interesting custom, etc. This kind of footnote has a cognitive characteristic, because it acquaints a reader with unfamiliar phenomena. Interpreting translation is a fully justified phenomenon, although many professionals believe that in such cases the translator should be limited only to comments. But the translator certainly has no right to make additions, if there is no extreme necessity. Therefore, one cannot agree with the tendency of some translators to "sharpen" or "decorate" the translation. Striving for adequacy, the translator must not forget that the language of the translation must be perfectly correct. No desire to preserve grammatical constructions, phraseological combinations or stylistic techniques of the original material can serve as an excuse. Even experienced translators sometimes violate the norms of the language, falling into literalism [9, p. 178].

Literalism is an incorrectly understood accuracy. It is a copy of foreign language features, leading to a violation of the norms of the language into which the translation is made, or to a distortion of the meaning. However literal copying is by no means an exact translation. Lexical and grammatical literalism, as already mentioned, always leads to a misrepresentation of content, to a distortion of thought, or to a violation of the norms of the language into which the translation is made. Literalism contradicts one of the basic trends of linguistics that is the characteristic feature of the target language [6, p. 76].

It is necessary to dwell on the concept of calque or tracing, sometimes mixed with literalism. Tracing is a special form of borrowing. The word or phraseological unit is created from the language material under the influence of the morphological structure of a target language. Tracing, both complete and incomplete, often has a place in the translation of terms, terminological expressions, as well as phraseological combinations, including words and sayings. Tracing is one of the ways to enrich the dictionary, since tracing is a "snapshot" of a word by means of target language. Thus, tracing is not a violation of language norms, such as literalism [6, p. 105].

While developing the students' competences in translation it is necessary to know the following methods of translating which are traditionally recognized in the theory and practice of translation. Literal

translation is dealt with separate words whose form and structure as well as their lexical meaning in the source language and in the target language, fully coincides. Verbal translation is also done at lexeme or word level, but unlike literal translation it never conveys the orthographic or the sounding form of the source language units, but their denotative meaning. A consecutive verbal translation of word-groups and sentences or word-for-word translation is also referred to the verbal translation. But the translator should avoid the tendency to translate word by word, because doing so he destroys the meaning of the original text. The interlinear method of translation is a conventional term for a strictly rendering of sense expressed by word-groups and sentences at the text level. Literary translation represents the highest level of a translator's activity. Any type of matter skillfully turned into the target language, may acquire the faithfulness and the literary standard equal to the source language. And there is the latest development in modern translation practice known as machine translation or rendering of information from a foreign language with the help of electronic devices. There is also the less-popular concept of modern translation – business translation. Its idea is that its goal should be to render a translation that is as close as possible to the word choice, phrasing, and style of the original text. This might seem like the preferable method, but as a result it can be difficult to understand translation, because of adhering to the grammar and style of one language in another [3, p. 118].

The future specialist should know that the stage of preparatory work is very important during the translation process. In the center of modern studies of scientific translation is the notion of scientific text, which describes the discovery of a scientific phenomenon. The concept of science is formed on the basis of such properties of the text as intellectual, metaphorical, conflict, and others. It causes the tactics of translation activity, to understand correctly the concept of the scientific text. It looks like the plot of a fiction story. It causes the tactics of translation activities – to understand correctly the concept of the scientific text. The interpreter must understand the basic concepts that are components or semantic grounds of the text and have both linguistic and extra linguistic character [3, p. 118].

For a successful translation of scientific and technical literature, an interpreter must have certain knowledge of special terms. He must know specific grammatical constructions of a foreign language, lexical, grammatical and stylistic rules of translation; peculiarities of a dictionary and be able to focus on a specific field of science. The translation of scientific and technical literature must meet the following requirements: equivalence, adequacy, logic and accuracy of translation. To make the translation of the scientific text adequate and equivalent, the qualitative translator needs the general and specific skills: theoretical

knowledge of the phonetic, lexical and grammatical units of the foreign language (lexical units, grammatical rules, word formation); practical knowledge (the peculiarities of the translation of scientific and technical texts and types of translation transformations and equivalence), linguistic practical knowledge (methods of translation: transliteration, tracing, replacement, permutation, addition, omission, methods of descriptive and antonymic translation), extralinguistic knowledge (possession of sufficient information for the translation of specialized text), necessary in the process of translating the text and constructing meaningful and adequate language suggestions [7].

Future specialists may think that it is easier to use the computer in their work, but it leads to non-professional translation. These practices have appeared with the recent democratization of technology and the popularization of the Internet. Many scholars are working at this problem. They even try to give new terms to label non-professional translation. O'Hagan has used user-generated translation, fan translation and community translation. The fundamental difference between this type of translation and professional translation relies on monetary reward, and a new term has become current. It should be called volunteer translation. Some of the most popular fan-controlled non-professional translation practices are Fansubbing, ROM hacking or Fan translation of video games, and Scanlation. These practices are mostly supported by a strong and consolidated fan base and are controlled by companies or organizations. Since 2008 Facebook has used crowdsourcing to have its website translated by its users, and TED (technology, entertainment, design) conference has set up the open translation project TED translators in which volunteers use the Amara platform (a Web-based service that lets anyone transcribe and translate online video) to create subtitles online for TED talks [10, p. 38].

Conclusion. In conclusion it may be said that translation is as old as language itself. For different language communities the translation is important as the means of interaction. At a time of increased pace of globalization and heightened risks of conflicts, the role of translation has never been so critical in facilitating communication, cultural exchange and technological development. Research in these areas draws on a range of disciplines, reflecting the background of the research expertise: general linguistics, semantics and language, culture and society. In their practical work the translators can rely on the theory of translation, in which the principles of translation are developed and the most important regular correspondences are established in lexical, grammatical and stylistic terms. Different translation complements should therefore be combined in analyzing translation as a process. The presence of these correspondences in the language and their analysis are the prerequisites on which the idea of machine translation is

also based. However, the work of a translator is not limited only to the ability to use ready-made formulas. When translating newspaper and journalistic articles, and fiction literature, the translator is required to use substitutions. He should translate not only separate words, but words and word combinations in a complex as a whole system. The translator must strive not to transfer a separate element, a separate word, but to transfer that semantic and stylistic function that is performed by this element. It explains the need for omissions and additions, replacing one word with another, replacing parts of speech, etc. The knowledge of the fundamental principles and concepts of the modern theory of translation, the technique of translation helps the future specialist to form communicative language competences which allow ensuring of effective translation in academic and professional environment [11, p. 24].

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