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Omittion as the Main Stratage of Translation

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Abstract: *This article proposes a five-level scale of pleonastic contexts, within which, when entering a translation, the omission changes or, in case of occurrence, by a justified method: from systemically determined to subjective: systemic, riverine, meaningful, situational, stylistic redundancy. In addition, detection can in rare cases be used to prevent error detection, but this can only be resorted to if the text is understood by everyone.*

Keywords: *communicative position, transmission, specific factors, pragmatic consideration, resource, translator's competence, communicative-oriented translation, omission, obligatory shifts in translation.*

The presence of translation difficulties is an obvious truism: without them, there would be no translator, he would be completely replaced by a computer. Translation difficulties can be observed at any language level, and there is no universal algorithm for their processing. The matter is complicated by the fact that, contrary to popular belief, they are not limited to the sphere of fiction; moreover, just in relation to fiction, due to the versatility of the subject, the fundamental plurality of its perception, it is difficult to objectively assess the success of a particular translation solution. For a special text, which always has a direct practical purpose, all difficulties must be resolved. Those of them that are due to systemic, including genre, differences between the source and target languages, undoubtedly, can and should be described. However, the labile matter of speech always remains, which reflects not only the norm in all its flexibility, but also a complex set of conditions in which the text functions, and they will be completely different for written and oral translation.

According to E.I. Panchenko, in recent studies on the problems of text compression, their turn towards cognitive science is noted, i.e. the compressed text becomes interesting to scientists not from the standpoint of its structure, but “from the point of view of its ability to organize cognitive activity human" [Lukina, 2008, 267]. From the point of view of D.I. Blumenau, information folding can be of two types: semantic and lexical. The first is associated with a change in the information content of the message, the second leaves the meaning of the message unchanged, but transforms its sign form [Babailova, 1987]. With lexical folding, information content is preserved. Linguistic compression at the lexical level is realized in the form of compressed word formation - abbreviation, which is very relevant today and has a high compressive significance. One of the main types of syntactic (grammatical) compression is considered to be an ellipse, one-part, nominal, impersonal sentences, leading, first of all, to a reduction in the speech chain at the syntactic level.

Phonetic compression is expressed in assimilations, changes associated with the rhythm, loudness and tempo of speech.

Depending on the members of the sentence subject to omission, the following types can be distinguished.

1. Omitting the main members of the sentence, for example: Haven't seen you for ages! - I haven't seen you for a long time! - omission of the subject; nice. - Fine. – omission of the introductory element it is; What lies beyond the garden? – A lake. - What is behind the garden? - Lake. - omission of the predicate;
2. Omission of service words, for example, a feature of colloquial English - the loss of the article: First come - first served. - Who is the first - he made it. The article is omitted from the English sentence.

This also includes the omission of prepositions, especially with the meaning of place and time. To date, a number of constructions in the language are already used as speech stamps - clichés: Thanks; see you; All right; No doubt, etc. [Komissarov, 1973].

3. Reduction and compression of the text by omitting semantically redundant elements:

- omission of words explained by the history of the language: He is to come at five (of the) clock;
- omission of words, explained by the formal grammatical patterns of the modern language: (There is) no rose without thorns;
- omission of words, explained by logical and semantic patterns: She will be eighteen (years old) at Christmas [Gak, 1971].

“The technique of omission is a technique of translation, which is characterized by the omission in the TL of units that are present in the text of the FL, while maintaining semantic equivalence” [Komissarov, 1973, 89]. This technique makes it possible to use the so-called language economy. From the point of view of G. Paul, it is considered in a quantitative sense and at a certain segment of speech. Economy does not mean a narrowing of the language, but on the contrary, it provides an expansion of resources, eliminating excesses. “Language reality is characterized by a certain tendency towards thrift; in the language, for all cases, ways of expression are developed that contain exactly as many means as necessary for understanding” [Pokrovsky, 1959, 20]. A. Martinet considered the principle of economy as the main driving force of language changes - the desire of a person to minimize his mental and physical activity. Economy includes everything: the elimination of useless differences, the emergence of new differences, and the preservation of the existing situation. Linguistic economy is a synthesis of active forces.

In general, all the difficulties that a translator experiences come down to two cases: they reveal themselves either when comprehending the text or when it is reexpressed by means of another language. If the translator has not coped with the first one, then one can, perhaps, stop at stating that he is incompetent, and not try to “help” with specific methods where you just need to learn the language or master the methods of information search. Nevertheless, it is precisely such cases that often become the subject of researchers' analysis. The commentator reveals the gaps in the translator’s knowledge and seeks to fill them, and in fact, in essence, initially it is not about difficulty, but about a mistake, as Lance Hewson aptly put it, une invitation à la paresse – “a reason for laziness” [Hewson .C. 26].

But arguing that the omission of any elements of the original should be a reasonable step of the translator, one cannot ignore the question of what is such a sufficient reason. In this case, it is necessary to take into account both systemic (in)consistencies, and pragmatic considerations, and (if we are talking about a literary work) features of the author's writing. Is it possible to bring them into a single, moreover, hierarchically organized scheme?

Foreign researchers see omission (omission, deletion) primarily as the simplest adaptation tool used to simplify the text for stylistic and strategic purposes [2]. Its application considered adequate in the following cases:

- ✓ if the omitted element is unacceptable to the audience or will have an undesirable effect on it;
- ✓ if it does not contain useful information [1. c. 144].

In practice, however, such a division of cases of justified or even necessary deletion cannot serve as a sufficient guide, since it does not name specific factors, but only describes the general message that the translator is supposed to be guided by. Moreover, the second point, in essence, is included in the first, since the presence of redundant information in the text of the translation will inevitably affect its perception by the recipients; From a communicative position, the pragmatic factor generally plays a dominant role, and therefore cannot be considered as a justification for one particular translation technique. We accept the requirement that the resulting text in TL correspond to its purpose and meet the expectations of the addressee as an axiom.

It is logical to assume that only what is not needed is excluded, discarded. Thus, omission is a struggle against redundancy. The latter can be found at different levels and in different structures.

Thus, the need to omit the elements in the translation due to the difference between the original language and the target language is thought to be indisputable. The simplest example is the transmission of morphological forms in the case when the source language is analytical and the target language is synthetic. Syntactic inconsistencies are less obvious, for example, the use of subordinate clauses and participial phrases in French technical speech is redundant from the point of view of the Russian language, which gravitates towards compositional and prepositional-nominal constructions. In the sphere of vocabulary for the same pair of languages, repetitions can be indicated, including periphrastic ones: French engineers and scientists willingly resort to them, while in the Russian scientific and technical style they are unacceptable. Let us designate this basic level of redundancy, which always requires omission, as system redundancy.

Somewhat more subjective schenie is characterized when the redundancy is determined by the usage, the speech norm. The redundancy that needs to be omitted may not be formally symbolic, but meaningful. In general, the question of whether the translator of non-fiction texts has the right to improve the original, especially if it is impossible to agree on this with the author, is one of the controversial ones. It seems that the answer to it is determined, on the one hand, by the genre of the text: it is allowed, for example, to correct the operation manual, the success of the translation of which is determined by the possibility of its application in practice, but it is unacceptable to interfere with the monograph. On the other hand, it is important to know the needs of the customer. It happens that he directly demands to extract the main information from a document, usually a very large one, without being distracted by details and explanations. Omissions in this case can either be pointwise, distributed throughout the text, or go beyond the limits of the sentence and even cover entire paragraphs. In other cases, the customer does not need a direct reduction of the original, but is interested in adequate perception of the translation by its end audience. Scientific and technical translations are carried out mainly for specialists, and the presence of well-known information in them or overly detailed explanations can cause skepticism towards the text as a whole, quite possibly unreasonable. Finally, one cannot rule out a situation in which the author himself made an inaccuracy. Needless to say, the translator will be the first person responsible for it? Without dwelling here in detail on the problems of translation ethics, we only state that sometimes translators prefer to resolve them according to the principle “if in doubt, don’t write”. The most justified is the elimination of content redundancy through omission.

The translator will undoubtedly take into account that the purpose of this text is to promote the product and that therefore the emphasis on its key properties, some hyperbolization of them, is appropriate. At the same time, advertising should not irritate the target audience. Based on this, a number of omissions will be made during the translation. In our opinion, this can be done most painlessly by evenly distributing information between the introductory paragraph and the first paragraph, and in other cases, choosing suitable synonyms. Other transformations will be driven by specific localization requirements; it is possible that other elements will eventually be omitted.

Closely related to content is situational redundancy. Due to the fact that the terms of translation are changeable, it has no less shaky outlines and can affect both the meaning spoken or written, as well as the formal side of speech. Speaking about the requirements of the customer to the content of the translated document, we partially touched upon it as well. It should be noted that the content and situational redundancy are often inextricably linked. Omissions made due to situational redundancy are frequent primarily in oral translation, but they occur in written; the only difference is that for written translation the situation is predetermined. It seems that in some cases situational omission can be combined with a mistake or misunderstanding on the part of the translator, without interfering, however, with communication, provided that this deceptive device is not abused. This refers to the situation of time trouble, when the translator simply releases what is not understood in the name of the quality of the resulting text: in any case, no obvious error will occur in the translation.

Nevertheless, the translator considered the union to be redundant due to the fact that the internal logic of the phrase is clear even with a union-free connection, and the preservation of the omitted element would break the rhythm, make the syntax heavier, and simply lengthen the already voluminous construction. Here we can talk about stylistic redundancy, which is associated with the aesthetic aspect of the text. Of course, stylistic redundancy fully manifests itself in literary texts, where it is often determined by the author's style, but it is also found in scientific literature and even in technical documentation. Omissions due to this type of redundancy, in our opinion, are the most subjective, but acceptable. The peripheral position of stylistic omissions provides abundant food for thought that goes beyond the scope of this article.

So, we propose the following scale of redundancy (according to the degree of obligation to omit the redundant element):

systemic → speech → meaningful and situational → stylistic

As a rule, systemic and speech redundancies do not entail unjustified omissions in translation, since they are of a purely linguistic nature, and therefore are verifiable (with the help of lexicographic sources and search engines). Otherwise, the situation is with the redundancy of information due to repetitions, the nature of the text or its carrier, the specific conditions of translation.

Of course, all these factors objectively exist and can be registered. The difficulty lies in determining which speech facts fall under their action. Any omission is fraught with the fact that the elements subjected to it may turn out to be a significant, sometimes even a defining element of meaning. The only way to reliably recognize them is to fully understand the original. Needless to say, for the scientific and technical texts of interest to us, it acquires special significance. An erroneous interpretation can both leave elements in the translation that are redundant, and deprive it of really useful information, not to mention omissions that mask a difficulty that is unsolvable for this particular translator. We argued above that in exceptional cases such omissions are legitimate, but paradoxically, in order for one missing word to save from an error, it is necessary that there are no errors in the rest of the text - only a deep understanding of the environment of an unrecognized element allows us to accept a decision to abandon it without serious prejudice to the content.

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