



Lexico-Semantic Transformations (Specification, Generalization, Logical Development)

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Annotation: Transformations in translation are technical techniques for transforming elements of the source text in order to achieve translation equivalence, that is, maintaining equality of content, semantic, stylistic and functional-communicative information in the original and translation. One of the types of lexical transformation is lexical-semantic replacement where we deal with translating expressions in the source language using units of the target language that do not coincide in meaning with the original ones, but are logically deducible. In concretization, a phrase or word in the source language with a broader meaning is replaced by a word or phrase with a narrower meaning in the translation. The article discusses the above-mentioned types of transformations in the case of English and Russian languages.

Key words: Lexical transformations, lexical-semantic replacement, concretization, generalization, functional replacement, original statement.

Introduction

Linguistic units, which can express different meanings depending on the context, situation and subtext, require special techniques in translation. Finding correspondences for such units begins with a careful study of the dictionary entry, sometimes even including analysis of dictionary entries from different dictionaries. As a result it may be discovered that the source word does not have a one-to-one correspondence in the target language or does not have a complete correspondence.

In such cases, when it is not the word itself that is important, but the meaning that it acquires in the context of the original statement, the translator resorts to translation transformations.

Such translation transformations include narrowing or expansion of the original meaning, neutralization or enhancement of the emphasis, functional replacement, description or comment.

Main part.

Narrowing (concretization) of the original value is used in cases where the measure of information orderliness of the original units lower than the measure of order corresponding to it the meaning of the unit in the target language, for example, the Russian concept explore may relate to different situational conditions and largely ordered by context; in English it will correspond to various narrower meanings units depending on context.

To explore (to explore the environment – исследовать местность). To investigate (to investigate the market – исследовать рынок). To research into (to research into the classical literature – исследовать явление).

The English meaning of the word “man” is quite broad and can be used in contexts in which Russian requires words with a more specific meaning, for example:

He is a man of taste. -Он человек со вкусом. All the King's men. -Все королевские солдаты. Then you will be a man, my son.- Вот тогда ты станешь мужчиной, сын.

Expansion (generalization) of the original meaning takes place in cases where the measure of information orderliness of the original units are higher than the measure of information orderliness of the corresponding unit in the meaning of the target language. For example, The Russian word *lechenie* corresponds to the English treatment, which has a much wider range of meanings and for information ordering requires special contexts that do not coincide with the contexts of treatment.

Лечение оказалось успешным, и она полностью выздоровела. The treatment turned to be successful and she recovered completely. Их понимание ситуации. Their treatment of the situation. Он обращался с родителями очень почтительно. His treatment of his parents was very deferential.

When using semantic development (or modulation) a word is replaced, the meaning of which is logically derived from the meaning of the original unit.

Most often, the meanings of related words in the original and translation turn out to be connected by cause-and-effect relationships:

I don't blame them. Я их понимаю (причина заменяется следствием: я их не виню, потому что я их понимаю). He is dead now. Он умер (Он умер, стало быть, он сейчас мертв).

Difficulty in translation may arise due to mismatch emphatic potential of words that are otherwise match up. For example, a cow-eyed girl, depending on the context, may require different correspondences: a girl with cow eyes or hair-eyed beauty; the first creates negative euphony, the second -positive. The emphatization technique can be very effective, but in some cases you can resort to the opposite technique - neutralizing the emotional-evaluative component of the meaning: for example, the same phrase may well be conveyed by a neutral option –“ a girl with big eyes”, if it is not clear from the context exactly how this definition is interpreted.

There are a number of words that have common roots, for example, of Latin or Greek origin, who received different emotional and evaluative coloring in English and Russian languages, but while maintaining the general meaning:

Ambitious - амбициозный, грандиозный.

Politician - – политик, политикан.

The most complex procedure in the process of solving lexical-semantic problems is functional replacement. The need for this technique arises when none of the correspondences suggested by the dictionary does not fit the given context. For example, The English expression the relaxation of the” well-earned rest “causes difficulty in translation because none of the recorded English-Russian dictionary of meanings words relaxation (reduction, softening; weakening, entertainment, discharge) does not fit this context, the translator replaces them and can use the Russian functional correspondence “enjoying a well-deserved rest.”

When none of the verbal matching techniques satisfies the situation, translators resort to description. Descriptive translation, as a rule, is used in parallel with transcription and is used when translating terms, unique objects, cultural names, etc. Thus, when translating from Russian into English texts dedicated to Russian wooden architecture and problems of its restoration, we are faced with the fact that in the English-speaking tradition the very cultural and historical phenomenon of restoration of monuments of wooden architecture is absent, and therefore many concepts associated with it are also absent.

For example, the term “circling” in English is translated in exactly this way – “kruzhalo” (ring-shaped base of the cupola of the wooden church). The description given in brackets is a mandatory component of the text and can be used in further text even separately in the form of the name ring-shaped base of the cupola.

Conclusion.

If a description as a translation technique usually accompanies a word presented in some simple form, or even used in the text instead of the word itself, then the translation commentary, as a rule, is moved outside the text and ends up either in footnote on the same page, or given at the end of the text as notes.

Commentary as a translation technique consists in more detailed translation than a description of what the given meaning means the original word in the broad context of the original culture.

The choice among these basic techniques of lexical-semantic transformation is one of the professional skills of a translator. In this case, working with dictionaries plays an important role, since very often it is necessary not so much to compare general dictionary matches, but to establish the degree of difference in their information potential. In addition to dictionaries, imagination, intuition, a sense of language and a cultural background help in particularly difficult situations.

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