SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF TRANSLATING LITOTES IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

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Abstract. Translation process is very complicated work as it has its own rules and principles. Especially, translating a figurative language is considered as the most difficult part of translation. A figurative language includes all stylistic devices, such as hyperbole, metaphor, metonymy, similes, epithet, litotes and etc. These tropes have their own functions. Translator must be very attentive while translating them and it is very important to find appropriate version. These reasons made the author do research on this theme. In this article the author will discuss the problems of translating litotes from English into Russian.

Key words: translation, a figurative language, tropes, litotes, synonym, equivalence, negation, double negation.

Аннотация. Процесс перевода очень сложная работа, так как имеет свои правила принципы. Особенно перевод образного языка считается самой сложной частью перевода. Образный язык включает в себя все стилистические приёмы, такие как гипербола, метафора, метонимия, сравнение, эпитет, литоты и другие. Эти тропы имеют свои функции. Переводчик должен быть очень внимательным при их переводе,и очень важно найти подходящий вариант. Эти причины заставили автора провести исследование по данной теме. В данной статье автор рассмотрит проблемы перевода литоты с английского на русский язык.

Ключевые слова: перевод, образный язык, тропы, литоты, синоним, эквивалентность, отрицание, двойное отрицание.

Annotatsiya: Tarjima jarayoni juda murakkab hisoblanadi, sababi uning qoidalari va tamoyillari mavjud.Ayniqsa, majoziy tilning tarjimasi tarjimaning eng qiyin qismi hisoblanadi.Majoziy til barcha uslubiy vositalarni o`z ichiga oladi, bular giperbola, metafora, metonimiya, epitet, litota va boshqalarni o`z ichiga oladi.Bu troplarning o`ziga hos vazifalari bor.Tarjimon esa ularni tarjima qilayotganda juda e`tiborli bo`lishi va mos keluvchi variantni topishi lozim.Ushbu sabablar muallifni shu mavzuda tadqiqot qilishga undadi.Ushbu maqolada muallif litotalarni ingliz tilidan rus tiliga tarjima qilishdagi muammolarni ko`rib chiqadi.

Kalit so`zlar: tarjima, majoziy til,troplar, litotalar, sinonim,ekvivalentlik, inkor, ikki tomonlama inkor.

Meanings of the sentences with culture specific contexts have their own uniqueness in the conceptual structure, and the translator seeks the best to realize the maximal reduction of meaning loss. Meanwhile, the gap between some languages is significantly higher, and each population has a deep-rooted tradition with society. This should be recognized by the translator himself.

Translation between languages is aided by resemblance of cognate word forms. Translation between unrelated languages may be aided by traditional equations that have evolved in step with a shared culture. For shedding the light on the nature of meaning, thinking is rather radical in translation theory. Here it is, if anywhere, that stimulus meaning detaches itself from the words that have it. The texts should be first translated with observation conspicuously shared by the translator. The translator sometimes succeeds in the basic task of recognizing the sufficient numerous culture specific phenomena[1].

Douglas Robinson's challenging "The Translator's Turn" is a lot more than a book about teaching translation[9]. Drawing on (at least!) such disciplines as philosophy, theology, psychology, literary criticism and the main orientations in translation studies, the author's purpose is to provide "an alternative paradigm for the study of translation," a "physicalist" one, acting as a counterbalance to the "mentalist" bias in mainstream theories. In literary works, adding figurative language is vital because it aims to create certain effects in the expressions that make the readers feel and imagine the feeling the characters possess and how the story happens. By giving different sense, readers can keep their attention to the literary works.[9]

A large number of tropes (turns of speech in which a word or expression is used in figurative sense) are characteristic of the literary style. The tropes are based on the transfer of features of one object or phenomenon to another. There are different reasons for transferring the features in a trope, which are divided into simple ones like epithets, comparisons, metaphors, allegories, ironies, hyperboles, etc.

Translation is a complex process of transferring information from one language to another. There are still different approaches to studying the theory of translation and how to transform the linguistic units of the source text and the target text.

The challenge for the translator is to translate the meaning of the source text in such a way that the reader understands what is being said. But this is not always easy to achieve, because not all the concepts that exist in the source language, are fully contained in the target language, so there is a difference between the concepts of reality and the non-equivalent vocabulary[3].

Figurative language is the prominent characteristic of literature. It has different style in expressing the messages and ideas, such as metaphor, personification, hyperbole, simile, etc. The dictions mostly use connotative expressions rather than

denotative expressions. Connotative expressions give special nuance to the situation of the literary works. They compel the readers to dig their understanding in relating one phenomenon with the others. Even, reading between the lines is the main key to understand the meaning. By doing this, sometimes, some people regard literary works as the complex works because they need more interpretation to figure out what the real meaning is.

Translating figurative language is not as simple as ordinary language. Figurative language mostly uses connotative expressions rather than denotative expressions which have parable words so the translator needs to understand the meaning and to decide whether figurative language will be perceived or not. Different translation techniques that are used in translating figurative language can be applied as long as the content and the style can be well delivered.

In translating literary works, some aspects have to be noticed by the translator because literary works have their own characteristics that make them different from other works. Sometimes, problems are faced by the translators during the translating process.

Translating figurative language is quite complicated for the translator. It needs further interpreting to catch the messages because the translator needs to understand figurative language, not only in terms of content but also sense. Moreover, in translating figurative language, the translator needs certain techniques so the content and sense of figurative language do not vanish.

Basically, in analyzing figurative language, linguistics has an important role to it. Even though figurative language is commonly known in literature, it remains to the functional and artistic purpose. First, as a functional purpose, it acts as semantic signifiers related to the meaning. Second, as artistic purpose, it aims to beautify the form in literary works. The scope covering figurative language is called as stylistics.

Figurative language is one of the elements that exist in literary works, such as novel. It makes literary works differ from other works in which it can give imagination and suggestion by expressing the message to the readers. The other expert stated that figurative language means something other than the actual meaning of the words.

In other words, each word possibly brings different meaning depending on the context. It is called as ambiguity. Furthermore, to prevent misunderstanding, the readers have to read between the lines to figure out the meaning.

Di Yanni categorizes types of figurative language into seven. They are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, litotes, and synecdoche.I would like to analyze the translations of litotes[10].

Let`s analyze some more examples and their translations in Russian.The examples are below.

"This is my unpretentious hut."(Это моя не прихотливая хижина).

In fact, this sentence expresses a house. However, the speaker tends to give understatement to his house which is not pretentious or luxurious. Furthermore, he said *"my unpretentious hut"* instead of *"my unpretentious house"*. Here, the author wants to emphasize that his house is very simple.If we pay attention to its translation in Russian.The example was translated word-by-word and the meaning is similar.According to Jakobson as quoted in "An Advanced Resource Book", any text which is functioned as source text can be translated or conveyed into target text so the transferable source text into target text is called as translatability. However, there is one condition in which the text cannot be translated, it is called untranslatability. He categorizes poetic expression as untranslatability. The reason is because poetic expression contains two components which are meaning and style. Commonly, it happens in translating literary works which contains special use of language, figurative language. The meaning and style cannot be separated in figurative language[5].

Moreover, translating figurative language in literary works is challenging for the translator because it seems like reproducing a new work by perceiving the meaning and style of figurative language in the source text [7]. The ambiguity available in the source text makes the translator has to fully understand the meaning and decide the appropriate translation techniques. In order to gain deep understanding, the translator has to read and re-read the source text and find companion of source text or any other text from the author [2]. It aims to keep the meaning and style of figurative language of the source text that is translated in the target text so they can be well understood by the readers. By doing this, a good quality translation product can be achieved.

It is related to the definition of translating by Nida and Taber. They state that translating consists of reproducing the source text by regarding into two terms, such as meaning and style. Thus, to translate literary works, the translating techniques that are used should be appropriate so that the source text and target text will be equivalent.

In literary circles, plenty of poets as well as writers have used this concept to convey strange and vivid images. It changes the thought process and thereby beautifies and adorns the literary works. Most of the literary works describe litotes in such a way that the words described are not false, but do not come near a complete description of the action in question. Rather, they are presented in a passive tone and demand more careful attention from the reader. Even figurative language use litotes to convey messages in a clear and impressive manner [8].

Especially in poetry or during the exaggerating the speech or something, user often says "no ordinary city", about a kind a city that means a very special or different city. There the usage of litotes identifies the exaggeration.***"That sword was***

not useless to the warrior now" **expresses the meaning** ***"The warrior has a use for the sword now."*** **There are three versions of translation in Russian:**

1 ***(Этот меч не был бесполезным для воина)***

2 ***(Этот меч был полезным для воина)***

3 ***(Этот меч понадобился воину)***

In the first example the sentence was translated word-by-word, but in the second example adjective was changed with the synonym.If we pay attention to the third variant of translation, the adjective was changed into the verb.In these examples the method of translation differs, but the meaning is similar.

The double negotiation in the example **"*He was not unfamiliar with the works of Dickens*"** gives the affirmative meaning that the speaker knows something that ***"He was acquainted with the works of Dickens." (Он бл знаком с произведениями Диккенса).***This is very appropriate translation, because double negatives were translated as an affirmative sentence. There the litotes creates the ironic effect of the utterance.

The example ***"She is not as young as she was"*** emphasizes that ***"She's old"(Она не так молода как была)*** positive effect is weakened and some lack of the speaker's confidence in the statement.Here, we can see word-by-word translation.

Another example also is considered by above given statement **"*He's no oil painting."*** The speech is going to acquaint the information in polite way that real meaning is ***"He's not ugly." (Он не уродлив).*** However, speaker does the speech in lessening and hiding there a saying in order not to terrify the listener.Russian version is equivalent with English version.

However, understated litotes instead of hyperbolic, litotes often seems to turn attention away from itself, like its cousin, paralyses, which emphasizes something by pretending to ignore it, and it can disarm potential opponents and avoid controversy; yet it emphasizes whatever it touches. Litotes describes the object to which it refers not directly, but through the negation of the opposite. The account given in various rhetorical textbooks reveals a picture of the rhetorical figure litotes which is to put it aptly not very clear.

The figure litotes is one of those methods which are used to talk about an object in a discreet way. It clearly locates an object for the recipient, but it avoids naming it directly. Regularly used examples of litotes:

"To be a good actress, she must always work for the truth in what she's playing," the man said in a voice not empty of self-love.("Чтобы быть хорошей актрисой, она всегда должна добиваться правды, что играет",-сказал мужчина голосом, не лишенным любви к себе.) The example contains that the functions of statement. There is the phenomenon clarifies with making polite the

speech and lessening that the speaker emphasizes it without confident. There is the man was full of self-love. Here is also equivalent variant is given

Following example creates the ironic effect of the utterance**.** ***It was not unnatural if Gilbert felt a certain embarrassment. (Было вполне естественно, что Гилберт почувствовал некоторое смущение).***In Russian variant positive sentence was given instead of double negatives.

There is the main statement refers to lessening of the saying of the user. The ***idea was not totally erroneous. (Идея не была полностью ошибочной).*** The thought did *not displeasu*re. No Following instruction is not be excluded above given definition that also the author used understatement. Not uncommunicative, that double negation refers to the positive aspect and there is the meaning that user is communicative and sociable but without confidence. I was quiet, but *not uncommunicative*; reserved, but not reclusive; energetic at times, but seldom enthusiastic. Nothing was changed while translating into Russian.

Next example is negation with preposition also considered two negative aspects that usage of litotes understates. ***He had all the confidence in the world, not without reason.(Ему доверяли все в мире не без причины).***In this example we can see word-by-word translation.

The same above given definition is met here. Kirsten said *not without* dignity**:*****"Too much talking is unwise."(Слишком много говорить-неразумно).***All words in the sentence were changed into appropriate ones in Russian.

Followings are some of the commonly used litotes:

The phenomenon emphasizes indirect attitude to the speaker. The speaker uses not exact aspect but he or she makes the politeness his or her speech, so again lessening: ***"They aren't the happiest couple around".(Они не самая счастливая пара вокруг).***

This example clarifies the speaker's aim that she or he does not want to speak directly and describes the fellow in a good and softening way. ***"He's not the ugliest fellow around!"(Он не самый уродливый парень вокруг).***

This example exaggerates to lessen the speech of the speaker and litotes reduces categorical features of the statement: ***"She's not the brightest girl in the class(Она не самая умная девочка в классе)."***

The function of litotes has much in common with that of understatement; next example is also in this way. ***"The food is not bad"(Еда не плохая).***

Weakening is the effect of the utterance and the positive evaluation. Saying instead of excellent, speaker supplies the phrase not bad. Following example exaggerates may be used with intonation, anyway it expresses synonymous of the word *"right"*.***"You are not wrong."(Вы не ошибаетесь)*** It is already common used phrase among English people. There litotes interdepends to the culture of the speaker.

"Einstein is not a bad mathematician."(Эйнштейн неплохой математик) From the example, listener of the speaker can understand that he is excellent mathematician and there the litotes foundation is ironic effect of the utterance.

"It won't be easy to find crocodiles in the dark."Это не легко найти крокодилов в темноте).The litotes lessens the main phenomenon that reduces categorical features of the statement. Speaker uses: ***"It won't be easy…" rather than to say: it will be difficult.***

"He is not unlike his dad."(Она мало чем отличается от своего отца)The litotes become phraseological combination and synonymous means of expression. Litotes not only understates sign but also emotionally tinctures statement.

"That's no small accomplishment."(Это немалое достижение).The litotes creates the ironic effect of the utterance in this statement. There is the user clarifies that something is big accomplishment that used large strength.

"He is not the kindest person I've met."(Он не самый добрый человек, которого я встретил) In this example litotes reduces categorical features of the statement.

"That is no ordinary boy. "Он необычный мальчик).Litotes functions as softening, lessening of the statement. The speaker can use direct meaning that this boy is smart or very clever or may be wunderkind; however the real meaning is hidden in indirect statement.

The above given examples were translated into the Russian language and have similar aspects from all points of view.

"He is not unaware of what you said behind his back.(Она в курсе того,что вы сказали за его спиной)" There author uses negatives that litotic construction converts an ironic sentiment by its understatement. However, double negatives lost their negation while translating.

There is the example which litotes intensifies the sentiment intended by the writer and creates the effect of strong feelings moderately conveyed. ***"This is no minor matter."(Это не второстепенное дело)***.The writer says instead of huge or major event, no minor that lessens the statement.

"The weather is not unpleasant at all."(Погода совсем не неприятная).This example contains the litotes in softening form of the statement.

"She's no doll."(Она не кукла).In this example, litotes lessens the phenomenon and conveys it into ironic aspect. There the writer uses the statement that she is clever enough. Following example also appropriate to this statement***:"She's no idiot".(Она не идиот)***

"That's not a meager sum."(Это не мизерная сумма).There is the litotes reduces categorical features of the statement.

The same observation is used in the following example. ***"That's no mean feat."(Это не значит страх*** [6]**.**

In the examples above we can see equivalence in translations.Concluding everything, I can say that, translating a figurative language, especially litotes from English into Russian is ***no minor matter.***Because we may face some problems during translation.Sometimes we have to change double negatives into positive word,sometimes we should find suitable synonym.The translator should include such aspects while translating.

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