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TRANSLATION OF THE OBJECT FROM ENGLISH INTO RUSSIAN

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Аннотация. В тезисе рассматриваются способы передачи английского дополнения при переводе на русский язык. Различия между языками обусловлены тем, что в английском языке объектные отношения выражаются главным образом порядком слов и предлогами, а в русском - системой падежей и глагольным управлением. Анализируются прямое, косвенное и предложное дополнения, когнатное (внутреннее) дополнение, дополнение, выраженное инфинитивом и герундием, сложное дополнение (Complex Object), а также дополнение в номинативных группах. Показано, что при переводе дополнение часто меняет падеж, предлог или синтаксическую функцию: превращается в подлежащее, обстоятельство или придаточное предложение, а порядок слов перестраивается в соответствии с актуальным членением русского предложения. Сделан вывод о том, что выбор способа перевода определяется управлением русского глагола, семантической ролью дополнения и коммуникативной структурой высказывания.

Ключевые слова: дополнение, глагольное управление, падеж, сложное дополнение, когнатное дополнение, грамматическая замена, перестановка, актуальное членение, англо-русский перевод.

Abstract. The paper examines the ways of rendering the English object in Russian translation. The differences between the languages stem from the fact that English expresses object relations mainly by word order and prepositions, whereas Russian relies on the case system and verbal government. The study covers direct, indirect and prepositional objects, the cognate object, objects expressed by the infinitive and the gerund, the complex object construction, and objects within nominal groups. It is shown that in translation the object often changes its case, preposition or syntactic function: it becomes a subject, an adverbial or a subordinate clause, and word order is rearranged in accordance with the functional sentence perspective of Russian. It is concluded that the choice of translation technique is determined by the government of the Russian verb, the semantic role of the object and the communicative structure of the utterance.

Keywords: object, verbal government, case, complex object, cognate object, grammatical substitution, permutation, functional sentence perspective, English-Russian translation.

Introduction

The object is a secondary part of the sentence that denotes the person or thing affected by the action, the recipient of the action or the thing towards which it is directed. In both English and Russian the object is closely connected with the predicate, but the means of expressing this connection differ fundamentally. English, an analytical language, marks the object primarily by its position after the verb (The boy broke the window) and by prepositions (to wait for somebody, to think of something). Russian, a synthetic language, marks object relations by case endings governed by the verb (ждать кого-либо, думать о чём-либо, управлять чем-либо), and its relatively free word order allows the object to stand before the verb or even at the beginning of the sentence [5; 7].

These differences mean that an English object can seldom be transferred into Russian mechanically. The translator must choose the case and preposition required by the Russian verb, which often do not coincide with the English model; sometimes the object has to be turned into another part of the sentence,

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and non-finite constructions with object meaning (the complex object, gerundial and infinitival objects) have to be unfolded into clauses. Errors in the government of the object are among the most typical features of "translationese" in student and machine translations.

The aim of this paper is to classify the main types of English objects that require transformation in translation into Russian and to describe the corresponding techniques. The analysis is based on examples from English fiction, journalism and academic texts and their Russian translations; it relies on L. S. Barkhudarov's classification of transformations into substitutions, permutations, additions and omissions [5] and on V. N. Komissarov's theory of equivalence levels [6].

Discussion

Change of government. The most frequent difficulty arises when an English verb with a direct object corresponds to a Russian verb with a prepositional or oblique object, or vice versa. English to need something corresponds to нуждаться в чём-либо, to enter the room to войти в комнату, to answer the letter to ответить на письмо, to influence somebody to влиять на кого-либо, to follow somebody to следовать за кем-либо. Conversely, English prepositional objects often become direct objects in Russian: to listen to music - слушать музыку, to look for the key - искать ключ, to wait for a friend - ждать друга. These are regular grammatical correspondences, but they require the translator to rely on Russian verbal government rather than on the form of the English construction.

Choice of case. Even when the object remains direct, the Russian case is not always the accusative. In negative sentences the object usually takes the genitive: I didn't get any letters - Я не получил ни одного письма. The genitive is also used to denote part of a quantity: Give me some water - Дай мне воды. A number of Russian verbs require the instrumental (to manage the company - управлять компанией, to use the method - пользоваться методом) or the dative (to help somebody - помогать кому-либо). The translator therefore has to analyse not only the lexical meaning of the verb but also the grammatical meaning that the case form carries in Russian.

Indirect object. The English indirect object without a preposition usually corresponds to the Russian dative: She gave him a book - Она дала ему книгу; He told us the truth - Он сказал нам правду. A special difficulty is the English passive with the indirect object as subject: He was offered a job; She was shown the way. Russian does not allow the recipient to become the subject of such a passive, so the translator uses an indefinite-personal sentence with the recipient in the dative: Ему предложили работу; Ей показали дорогу. Here the English subject becomes a Russian object, which is a typical case of grammatical substitution of the part of the sentence.

Object-subject conversion. In many cases the English object denotes the experiencer of a feeling or state, while the subject denotes its cause. Russian prefers to present the experiencer as the subject or as a dative object: I like this film - Мне нравится этот фильм; The news surprised him - Он удивился этой новости; The book lacks illustrations - В книге не хватает иллюстраций; He missed her - Он скучал по ней. Such conversions reflect the tendency of English to use inanimate subjects with transitive verbs. A. M. Shestopalova shows that the reverse asymmetry exists as well: Russian quasi-subject constructions often cannot be rendered into English with the same subject, and the choice of English equivalent depends on the semantic type of the subject [2].

Object and word order. In English the object normally follows the verb, regardless of whether it conveys given or new information. In Russian the position of the object depends on the functional sentence perspective: if the object is the theme, it is placed at the beginning of the sentence. Thus My friend wrote this book, in a context where the book has already been mentioned and the author is the new information, is rendered as Эту книгу написал мой друг. E. Yu. Andreeva shows on the material of P. Kurth's biographical novels that such permutations are objective, since they are dictated by the communicative structure of the Russian sentence: in the sentence One photograph of the Tsar's

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four daughters had immediately caught the nurses' attention the translator places the object first and the subject last [1].

Cognate object. English has a special type of object expressed by a noun derived from the same root as the verb or close to it in meaning: to live a happy life, to smile a sad smile, to sleep the sleep of the just. Russian has similar constructions (прожить счастливую жизнь, спать сном праведника), but they are used less freely. Therefore the cognate object is often transformed into an adverbial, and its attribute into an adverb: She smiled a sad smile - Она грустно улыбнулась; He laughed a bitter laugh - Он горько рассмеялся.

Infinitival and gerundial objects. The English infinitive as object is usually rendered by a Russian infinitive: He decided to leave - Он решил уехать. The gerund as object has no direct Russian equivalent and is translated by an infinitive, a verbal noun or a subordinate clause: He likes reading - Он любит читать; She avoided answering - Она уклонилась от ответа; I remember seeing her there - Я помню, что видел её там. The choice depends on whether the gerund denotes a process, a fact or an action preceding the action of the predicate.

Complex object. The construction verb + noun/pronoun + infinitive or participle has no structural equivalent in Russian and is usually translated by an object clause: I saw him cross the street - Я видел, как он переходил улицу; I want you to come - Я хочу, чтобы вы пришли; We heard the door open - Мы услышали, как открылась дверь. After verbs of opinion, the construction may be rendered by a simple sentence with a predicative instrumental: They consider him a genius - Его считают гением. Causative constructions with make, have and get are often rendered by a single Russian verb: She made him laugh - Она рассмешила его; He had his hair cut - Он подстригся.

Object relations in nominal groups. In academic and journalistic texts the object is often expressed within a noun phrase, by a prepositive noun or a possessive form: data protection, the government's handling of the crisis. In Russian such relations are rendered by a verbal noun with an object in the genitive (защита данных) or by unfolding the group into a clause (то, как правительство справлялось с кризисом). N. N. Beklemesheva and E. V. Malygina note that in sociology and pedagogy texts expanding such attributive predication into a participial phrase or using a verbal noun are the most common translation strategies [3].

Addition and omission of the object. Some English transitive verbs are used without an object where Russian requires one, and vice versa. For example, He reads a lot may need no object in Russian (Он много читает), but Do you smoke? - Вы курите? Conversely, the English object expressed by a pronoun is often omitted in Russian when it is clear from the context: Did you see the film? - Yes, I saw it - Ты видел фильм? - Да, видел. Such omissions, as well as additions of an object required by Russian government, belong to the objective transformations conditioned by the norms of the target language [1; 5].

Conclusion

The English object is preserved as a Russian object with the same case and position only in a limited number of cases. Much more often the translator has to change the government (case and preposition), convert the object into a subject or an adverbial, change its position in the sentence according to the theme–rheme structure, and unfold non-finite object constructions into clauses. Cognate objects are usually transformed into adverbials, gerundial objects into infinitives, verbal nouns or clauses, and the complex object into an object clause or a construction with the predicative instrumental.

All these transformations are objective: they are determined by the systemic differences between the analytical structure of English and the synthetic, case-based structure of Russian. In practice, the translator should first identify the semantic role of the object (patient, recipient,

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experiencer, content of perception or opinion), then choose the Russian verb and its government, and finally arrange the sentence according to the communicative perspective of Russian. This order of analysis prevents the most common errors in the translation of the object and ensures a natural target text.

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