

## ДИПЛОМАТИЯЛЫК ТЕКСТТЕРДИ КОТОРУУНУН АЛДЫНДА ТАЛДООНУН МИСАЛЫ (АКШЫН МАМЛЕКЕТТИК ДЕПАРТАМЕНТИНИН ЖАРЫЯЛАРЫНЫН МАТЕРИАЛЫНДА)

### ПРИМЕР ПРЕДПЕРЕВОДЧЕСКОГО АНАЛИЗА ДИПЛОМАТИЧЕСКИХ ТЕКСТОВ (НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ ЗАЯВЛЕНИЯ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО ДЕПАРТАМЕНТА США)

### PRE-TRANSLATION ANALYSIS OF DIPLOMATIC TEXTS: A CASE STUDY (ON THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT MATERIAL)

**Аннотация.** Дипломатические тексты являются официальным средством ведения международных отношений и имеют свои особенности. Перевод дипломатических текстов, как процесс и как продукт, несёт в себе ответственность на международном уровне. Целью данной вводной статьи является ознакомление читателей с общими понятиями как перевод, дипломатический дискурс, особенности перевода дипломатических текстов и переводческая стратегия. В практической части работы выполнен предпереводческий анализ текста для перевода.

**Abstract.** Diplomatic texts are official means of conducting international relations, and have specific characteristics. The translation of diplomatic texts, as a process and a product, accounts for a responsibility on international level. The purpose of this introductory article is to acquaint readers with the basic concepts of translation, diplomatic discourse, requirements for diplomatic texts translation and translation strategy. In the practical part of this work, a pre-translation analysis of a sample text was carried out.

**Ключевые слова:** перевод, дипломатический дискурс, дипломатический текст, переводческая стратегия.

**Key words:** translation, diplomatic discourse, diplomatic text, translation strategy.

#### 1. Diplomatic Discourse: Concept, Features

**Diplomacy** is the established method of influencing the decisions and behavior of foreign governments and peoples through dialogue, negotiation, and other measures short of war or violence. According to the diplomatic dictionary definition: "Diplomacy is the peaceful official activity in carrying out the tasks of the foreign policy of the state, carried out by government bodies and their representatives and agents abroad." [1]

Diplomatic discourse is a type of the institutional discourse. Institutional discourse is a stable system of status-role relations that exist in the communication space of the particular institution. The core of institutional discourse is the communication between two participants: the addresser who generates and sends a verbal/written message, and the addressee who receives and decodes this message [Vikulova, 2008]. In the diplomatic discourse both "agents/addressers" and "clients/addressees" are specially trained employees, members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials who have the power and the most complete information to carry out both political and diplomatic actions at the same time. [Kozheteva, 2012: 255]. Summarizing, it can be stated that diplomatic discourse is as a special form of communication to implement the goals and objectives of the foreign policy of states, as well as to protect the rights and interests of the state abroad.

Public forms of diplomatic communication are speeches of ambassadors in their country of residence, briefings and press conferences of the highest state authorities, statements by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as speeches by diplomats at meetings of various international organizations, which are subsequently distributed by various sources through the media.

The functions of diplomatic discourse can be described as:

- appellative: maintaining the internal and external security of the state, settling disputes;
- communicative: informing representatives of the diplomatic corps, citizens of their country and other countries about the adoption of any decisions;

- representative: representing the interests of a state;
- manipulative: influencing public opinion on important political issues, events and problems in order to change perception or behavior, as well as on opponents, justifying one's own actions;
- regulatory: organization and control of joint activities of states and governments to address any issues;
- propaganda: conveying to public opinion the position of states and governments on any issues, explaining the rationality of political actions from the point of view of their rationality [Anikina, 2016].

## **2. Linguistic Features of Diplomatic Texts**

Diplomatic communication covers a wide range of issues influencing bilateral and multilateral relations of states. Diplomatic discourse is conducted in official business style of speech, represented by various forms of oral and written communication (negotiations, notes, memos, memorandums, declarations, resolutions, statements, communiqués, etc.). The presentation of the topic is characterized by objectivity, generalization, informativeness, logical organization, semantic clarity, certainty, and strict observance of diplomatic ethics.

Word usage in diplomatic texts is characterized by situational clichés, (diplomatic) terms, figurative expressions, borrowings, euphemisms, contractions, abbreviations, special symbols and designations. Diplomats using certain lexical units, influence both their audience and their opponents. It allows to state that diplomatic activity has an influencing character.

## **3. Requirements for Diplomatic Texts Translation**

In the course of diplomatic discourse with the presence of two or more languages, the main communication tool is translation, as “the activity or process of changing the words of one language into the words in another language that have the same meaning” [5]. Translation studies explore the translation of diplomatic texts as a process and as a text.

There are some diplomatic texts translation rules:

- to follow strict rules of using standard language patterns;
- contractions and abbreviations of the source text should be deciphered and transmitted according to generally accepted rules, but if there are abbreviations in the original language that cannot be deciphered, then such abbreviations are usually transcribed;
- to use words in their direct dictionary meaning, not in different and emotionally colored meanings;
- syntactic structure in translation must meet norms of the target language, not of the source language; [Ismagilova, 2012: 58-59]
- a translated text and an original text must match both in content and structure.

Due to the importance of translation in diplomatic communication, a translator is required to have additional skills along with basic professional competencies. Some of them are:

- To take into account linguistic features of the diplomatic discourse, which include speech clichés, phraseological units, borrowed vocabulary, neologisms, and so on. Diplomatic speech is also rich in quotations, which means that the translator must have basic knowledge in the field of history, cultural studies, etc. [Volkova, 2007].
- To have basic knowledge in the field of politics, economics, history, i.e. understand the essence of communication in which he acts as an intermediary.
- To strictly follow business etiquette.

## **4. Translation Strategy**

A translation strategy is a set of certain actions to help a translator conduct a translation process. It consists of three main stages:

- 1) Pre-translation includes finding out external information about the text, the author, when the text was created, who is its addressee, what is the communicative purpose of the text, the composition and density of information etc.
- 2) A translation process.
- 3) Post-translation checks the source and translated texts in terms of equivalence of meaning, style and grammar. [Fedorov, 1983: 143].

## **5. Practical Part: A Pre-Translation Analysis Of A Sample Text**

To conduct a pre-translation analysis we took a statement “Empowering Women and Girls Across

the Globe to Participate in STEM” on the United States Department of State website [10] as a genre of diplomatic discourse. The text will be analyzed using the speech genre model by T. Shmeleva. According to it, a speech genre as a situational speech action consists of seven components:

- 1) communication goal (informative, imperative, etiquette and evaluative);
- 2) the author’s image;
- 3) the addressee’s image;
- 4) the image of the past ;
- 5) the image of the future;
- 6) the event basis of the statement;
- 7) linguistic expression. [Shmeleva, 1997]

**1) Communication goal:** evaluative, informative and imperative, in some extent. In imperative communication one of the sides tries to establish control over the inner attitude and behavior of the interlocutor, forcing him to perform in a certain way or make the necessary decisions.

Evaluative:

*As Americans, we have a seemingly insatiable desire for progress. It’s one of the founding features of our country and one of our greatest strengths as a nation. It is also part of the reason the United States is uniquely positioned to lead efforts aimed at tackling global challenges like the climate crisis and plastic pollution or strengthening S&T collaboration across the world. Through these efforts, we are committed to helping humanity reach its full potential.*

*It’s a goal that requires active engagement and buy-in from all facets of society – with no exceptions.*

Informative:

*That is why the Biden-Harris Administration has made promoting gender equity and equality a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. That is why the Biden-Harris Administration just released the first-ever interagency U.S. Strategy on Global Women’s Economic Security. And that is why the OES bureau with its agency and interagency partners is supporting efforts across the globe to increase the participation of women and girls in all their diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.*

Imperative:

*STEM skills and knowledge, including in digital skills and technology, are needed to address some of the most pressing challenges of our day; in particular, the climate crisis, which disproportionately affects women and girls. Women and girls, meanwhile, have been shown to be some of the most creative and vocal advocates in our collective fight against climate change. And we must empower them as leaders in addressing the climate crisis – as innovators, entrepreneurs, and founders of initiatives and enterprise with meaningful environmental and social impact.*

Informative:

*On a recent trip to Vietnam and Thailand, I saw firsthand the devastating effects of climate change, from destructive floods, where tides are causing regular flooding in streets and on the first floors of buildings, to drought and biodiversity loss. Local science and technological innovations are key to tackling these issues and protecting at-risk communities. In fact, we see the benefits of science first-hand through the Thai Department of Drainage and Sewage’s use of technology to prevent severe floods, and through our own cooperation with Thailand and Vietnam as part of the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, where the Mekong Dam Monitor serves as a platform to collect and analyze information to reduce water-related risks and improve responses to environmental emergencies.*

Imperative:

*Developing similar solutions, however, requires an increase in STEM education and increased participation in STEM fields, where all women and girls including the LGBTQI+ community are underrepresented. And achieving equity for women and girls in STEM fields requires addressing barriers to entry, retention, and promotion – in academia, government service, and the private sector – while simultaneously increasing access to educational opportunities from the earliest ages.*

Evaluative:

*Space, for example, is still the domain of young dreamers; yet, women and girls remain an exception*

*in the pursuit and exploration of outer space. It's a paradigm that I hope is changing. On a recent visit to the Republic of Korea, I was thrilled to meet with a talented group of women space professionals – including Soyeon Yi, the ROK's first astronaut, who has truly shattered the celestial glass ceiling for her country.*

*At home, in the United States, young women are increasingly present in our space program – and through the Artemis program, a woman will be among the next astronauts on the Moon.*

Imperative:

*But we know that's not enough – we have to give other young women increased opportunity to follow in these zero-gravity footsteps.*

Informative:

*That's why the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy established the interagency Space STEM Task Force – to develop and facilitate the coordination and implementation of federal actions to grow, diversify, and strengthen the space workforce.*

Evaluative:

*I recognize it's a small step, but it is important. And I am confident we can do more, at home and abroad. We know that women and girls around the world face roadblocks when it comes to accessing STEM education, digital literacy and skills building, investment, networks, and careers. The State Department is doing its part to help change that. While in Thailand, for example, I met with alumni of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, or YSEALI, an exchange program that builds the next generation of leaders for this important region. Let me tell you. These amazing women are doing so much positive, cutting-edge work, from healthcare to marine biology, and they are the proof, not only that women belong, but that women are change agents to reach our potential.*

Imperative:

*I am confident we are on a smart path – the right path. The Biden-Harris Administration is going to continue efforts to dismantle obstacles that keep women and girls in all their diversity from reaching their and our full potential. We need to capitalize on this moment with a commitment to open, merit-based, transparent, and reciprocal science. If we do, I believe in a future where all women and girls have an equal seat at the table.*

2) **The addresser's image:** Jennifer R. Littlejohn, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

3) **The addressee's image:** Partners of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

4) **The image of the past:**

*As Americans, we have a seemingly insatiable desire for progress. It's one of the founding features of our country and one of our greatest strengths as a nation. It is also part of the reason the United States is uniquely positioned to lead efforts aimed at tackling global challenges like the climate crisis and plastic pollution or strengthening S&T collaboration across the world. Through these efforts, we are committed to helping humanity reach its full potential.*

*That is why the Biden-Harris Administration has made promoting gender equity and equality a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. That is why the Biden-Harris Administration just released the first-ever interagency U.S. Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security. And that is why the OES bureau with its agency and interagency partners is supporting efforts across the globe to increase the participation of women and girls in all their diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields...*

*That's why the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy established the interagency Space STEM Task Force – to develop and facilitate the coordination and implementation of federal actions to grow, diversify, and strengthen the space workforce.*

5) **The image of the future:**

*...We are committed to helping humanity reach its full potential.*

*The Biden-Harris Administration is going to continue efforts to dismantle obstacles that keep women and girls in all their diversity from reaching their and our full potential. We need to capitalize on this moment with a commitment to open, merit-based, transparent, and reciprocal science. If we do, I*

*believe in a future where all women and girls have an equal seat at the table.*

**6) The event basis of the statement:** 1) The author's recent trip to Vietnam, Thailand and South Korea and meeting with alumni of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (an exchange program that builds the next generation of leaders for this region) in Thailand, meeting with a group of women space professionals in South Korea. 2) The author is a member of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs which supports efforts across the globe to increase the participation of women and girls in all their diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

**7) Linguistic expression:** The text's main topic is empowering women and girls in STEM fields all over the world. Text is conducted in official business style. The presentation of the topic is characterized by objectivity, giving specific examples, expression of appreciation, admiration and hope, logical organization, semantic clarity, and strict observance of diplomatic ethics. Word usage is characterized by terms, contractions, abbreviations, special symbols and designations.

### **Conclusion**

**Diplomacy** is the established method of influencing the decisions and behavior of foreign governments and peoples through dialogue, negotiation, and other measures short of war or violence. Diplomatic discourse is as a special form of communication to implement the goals and objectives of the foreign policy of states, as well as to protect the rights and interests of the state abroad.

Public forms of diplomatic communication are speeches of ambassadors and diplomats, briefings and press conferences of the highest state authorities, statements by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc. Diplomatic discourse is conducted in official business style of speech. Word usage in diplomatic texts is characterized by situational clichés, (diplomatic) terms, figurative expressions, borrowings, euphemisms, contractions, abbreviations, special symbols and designations.

Due to the importance of translation in bilateral and multilateral diplomatic communication a translator is required to have additional skills along with basic professional competencies.

A translation strategy is a set of certain actions to help a translator conduct a translation process. It consists of pre-translation, translation and post-translation processes. At the pre-translation stage the speech genre model by Shmeleva can serve as an effective tool to systematize information in and around a source text and this will undoubtedly improve the quality of the translation.

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