

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE IN TRANSLATION OF AMERICAN LITERATURE (ON THE BASIS OF WASHINGTON IRVING'S SHORT STORIES).

New findings in linguistics, ethnology, psychology helped us better comprehend the term “culture” with all its pervasive implications on how people from different cultural communities interact, work and live together.

Key words: American literature, culture, translation, historical peculiarities.

Новые сведения о лингвистике, этнологии, психологии помогли нам лучше понять термин "культура" со всеми его распространенными последствиями о том, как люди из разных культурных сообществ взаимодействуют, работают и живут вместе.

Ключевые слова: американская литература, культура, перевод, исторические особенности.

Language is a cultural phenomenon and therefore reflects its mother culture to the same extent as the respective culture reflects its language. From this perspective, the translational act between languages has always been problematic, especially culture-bound texts produced in languages, mostly literary texts.

When we introduce American novels or poetry to the students of language and literature or translation departments some issues connected with cultural, traditional, historical peculiarities are usually raised. When learning a foreign language, people should not limit themselves to learning the structures, lexis or cultural values of target language. A language learner may be able to speak the language with great accuracy but may find himself at a loss when dealing with different communicative situations. The aim of this paper is to investigate the effects of extra linguistic factors in translating of culture-bound words, terms. In our case it is an example from first experiment of translation of Washington Irving's short stories with the students of above mentioned departments, the difficulties and achievements they've had.

This academic term at translation department of International University of Kyrgyzstan we tried to turn to translation of a new and exciting age in American literature—the age of Romanticism—

and we began with the work of one of America's best-known writers, Washington Irving. The students were informed about the American culture of this period which showed the same hunger, confidence, and sense of adventure that characterized the westward migration. While western pioneers were exploring and settling the land, other Americans broke ground in the scientific, social, and artistic realms.

A transitional figure, Irving somewhat ironically contributed to America's literary independence while producing work that was distinctively European in content and style. Like his contemporary James Fenimore Cooper, Irving proved that Americans could write European literature as well as Europeans could.

One of the main demands upon a person translating any text is that he should be well acquainted with its subject matter. Literary works are known to fall into a number of genres. Translators of prose, poetry or plays have their own problems.

The most successful translation of literary works is when it is done taking into consideration both linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The main task for the translator is to get adequacy of source text keeping the relevancy of the foreign culture, tradition and custom, historical and geographical settings. It is difficult to say that

every translation achieves its aim. According to the translations mentioned above we can see some peculiarities during the translation process like substitution, addition, omission and other compensatory techniques. It is important to know that the social and cultural matters become crucial in the process of translation. Another main task is to take into account that pragmatical units demand big effort to make the meaning understandable for foreigners. "A pragmatical background is a special knowledge of a people's history, culture, art, customs and traditions, the psychology of the people and their social peculiarities, and even how they associate or accept the realities of life. The interpreter or the translator should have an excellent pragmatical background of both the source and the target languages to make an adequate translation"(1). Furthermore, we need to understand the characters in any work we read, pay close attention to their appearance, their language, and their actions.

We've chosen his story named "Widow and her son" which hasn't been translated into Russian. Those whose native is Kyrgyz preferred to translate it into Kyrgyz. There were some difficulties of the translation of concerning syntactical aspects of English language as well as semantic aspect as this language is considered to be polysemantic. At the same time we dare to say that the translation achieved its adequacy through analyzing the ST (source text) and TT (target text) which demands the answers for the questions like did it introduce the readers to different cultural, historical, life? Were we able to follow the plot? Could the reader understand some peculiarities of foreign culture.

The story describes the mother's love to her son, the society and poverty she lived in, the comparison of rich and poor lives that was clearly and accurately described by rhetorical question "What, thought I, are distresses of the rich? They have friends to soothe-pleasures to beguile-a world to divert and dissipate their grief. But the sorrows of the poor, who have no outward appliances to soothe- the sorrows of the aged, with whom life at best is but a wintry day, and who can look for no after-growth of joy-the sorrows of a widow, aged, solitary, destitute....these are indeed sorrows which make us feel the impotency of consolation" (Washington Irving "Widow and her son"). This is a part of description which draws every reader's attention of any culture.

So, let's look at some examples of translation where there are attempts of keeping above mentioned principles since they are very important to воссоздать the whole event in TT.

The author starts the story with the following saying:

Pittie olde age, within whose silver hair
Honour and reverence evermore have rain'd
(Marlowe's Tamburlaine)

ТТ: Над старостью согбенной, чьи седины
Как бы венчают честь и благородство
(Кристофер Марло,) (our translation)

In TT the word "Silver" in word combination "Silver hair" is omitted because "седые волосы" или "седина" is its equivalent.

The word combination "Sweet day" in the source text in the sentence "Sweet day, so pure, so calm, so bright, the bridal of the earth and sky". The translation is "Прелестный день, спокойный, светлый. Венчание земли и неба". Actually in Russian "day" can be used in the connotative level with "amazing" but in Kyrgyz we can use with "sweet" which can be associated with day which is in ST.

ST: "I felt myself continually thrown back upon the world, by the frigidity and pomp of the poor worms around me". TT: "Я чувствовал себя непрерывно оттесненным от мира, безразличием и помпезностью презренных людей, (not "бедные черви") окружавших меня". ST: "I'm a better man on Sunday than on any other day of the seven" in TT it is translated with descriptive way of translation "Я становлюсь лучше в воскресенье, чем в любой другой день недели". (our translation)

The description of the funeral process in ST can cause some difficulties for the translation into Kyrgyz because of cultural and religious peculiarities of the mentioned process. For example, if the sentence "she sat alone on the steps of the altar" is understandable for Russian readers as for Kyrgyz reader it should be expressed with the help of descriptive way of translation. Like "the special place in the church where the people come to pray". The same explanation is in the case with the sentence "the parson issued from the church-porch, arrayed in the surplice" in Russian it can sound like "пастор сошел с паперти, облаченный в подризник," but if we translate it into Kyrgyz "чиркөө кызматкери" (prayer or a man who serves in church) is not identical equivalent for "parson", so this case again demands another technique of

translation that is addition because “чиркөө кызматкери” is equivalent for priest. Because of religious peculiarities there were a lot of difficulties to reach an adequacy of the text in Kyrgyz language.

This activity of translation has raised cultural awareness by exploring some components of cultural differences, such as communication styles, and cultural perceptions of reality,

informed by beliefs, values and attitudes. It also offers several practical activities aimed at teaching culture in the classroom.

As a conclusion we can say that culture both defines and informs language. The knowledge of both language and culture, not only enables learners to understand their own culture and those of the target culture but also helps them become more competent language learners.

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