

PECULIARITIES OF TRANSLATING PHRASAL VERBS WITH FIGURATIVE MEANING INTO RUSSIAN

The history of phrasal verbs in the English language dates back to the 11th century, when adverbs in sentences with direct word order began to be placed in postposition to the verb. Nowadays there are about 15,000 phrasal verbs and their list is constantly being updated. Many common phrasal verbs have figurative meaning related to emotions, actions, or concepts. They cannot be understood by the literal meanings of the verb and particle.

Figurative phrasal verbs are phrasal verbs that can be the basis for an associative meaning. Their components contain a hidden ability to create visual and sensual pictures of the outside world. Such phrasal verbs form a holistic image, while the expression of the idea is accessible to our senses. Many linguists, including A. I. Smirnitsky and J. Povey, noted the idiomatic nature of some phrasal verbs. However, the researchers did not touch upon the concept of figurativeness of phrasal verbs, which includes their ability to form a certain image in a person's mind through associative thinking that arises under the influence of sensory organs.

Phrasal verbs play an important role in the formation of the lexical system of the English language. But many theoretical and practical issues of their translation are very poorly developed: there are very few teaching materials that would teach to translate phrasal verbs, which causes difficulties in selecting Russian equivalents of English phrasal verbs [1, p. 136].

When working with figurative phrasal verbs, the translator needs to take into account the following factors that influence the translation:

- 1) semantics of phrasal verbs;
- 2) imaginative potential;
- 3) pragmatic aspects;
- 4) communicative aspects, namely communicative marks (polite/impolite);
- 5) context.

Pragmatic influence on the recipient of information plays an important role in any communication, and the requirement of communicative-pragmatic equivalence is the main one among the requirements for translation.

There are two ways of translation that a translator can follow: a direct (literal) translation and an indirect translation. Direct translation includes transliteration, calculating, and literal translation. As for transliteration and calculating, they are practically not used in the process of translating figurative phrasal verbs.

A literal or word-for-word translation means a translation from the source language to the target language, which leads to the creation of a correct and idiomatic text, while the translator only monitors compliance with the mandatory norms of the language. When translating figurative phrasal verbs from English into Russian, as well as when translating phrasal verbs in general, we can talk about literal translation in the case when the meaning of the Russian verb in translation is a derived lexical meaning from the main meaning of the verb part of the phrasal verb. In this case the meaning of the Russian verb in translation will coincide with the meaning of a phrasal verb. Their figurative meanings will also coincide. This seems possible to us, since there are no phrasal verbs in the Russian language, and the prefix often plays the role of a postposition in translation. For example: *"If he ever discovered that a family member or a friend was in need, he discreetly wrote a cheque or did a direct transfer, waving away thanks, changing the subject."* [4, p. 173] «Узнав, что какой-нибудь родственник или друг нуждается в деньгах, он без лишних слов выписывал чек или прямо переводил деньги, отмахиваясь от слов благодарности и стараясь сменить тему.» [2, p. 246].

The main meaning of the verb "to wave" is «махать». In the Macmillan Phrasal Verbs Plus dictionary this verb has the following definition: to move your hand to say hello or goodbye or as a signal. «Отмахиваться» is a derived lexical meaning from the verb «махать». The meaning of the verb «отмахиваться» coincides with the meaning of the phrasal verb "to wave away". The imagery is preserved in the translation. The presence of some cases of word-for-word translation of figurative phrasal verbs from English into Russian can be explained by the common cultures of the peoples speaking these languages.

If the translator finds the literal translation unacceptable, then he considers it necessary to resort to an indirect translation. Unacceptability means that the translated message may:

- a) convey a different meaning;
- b) not make sense;
- c) not correspond to anything in the metalinguistics of the target language;
- d) corresponds to something, but not at the same stylistic level.

As for indirect translation, it consists in the fact that the translator needs to subject the original message to special procedures in order to arrive at what he wants. It is believed that the translation process is often described through mental operations, through which the translator finds the desired variant of translation because there are no ready-made solutions in dictionaries. At the same time it is noted that there is a direct relationship between the units of the original and the translation due to which a translation unit can be obtained from the original unit by any transformations. Let's consider the example taken from the British Linguistic Corpus:

“Drama and tension will boil up; laughter and tears may erupt; and the timer will tick without mercy”. «Драматизм и напряжение будут нарастать; могут разразиться смех и слезы; и таймер будет тикать без сожаления» (our translation).

The main meaning of the phrasal verb “to boil up” according to the Macmillan Phrasal Verbs Plus is to heat liquid, or to heat something in a liquid until it boils («вскипятить, сварить»). Its figurative meaning speaking about emotions is «закипать, нарастать». In this case, the comparison is made with boiling water. Initially calm, it gradually begins to boil, its temperature rises. In the same way, a person experiencing negative emotions first hides them and then gradually begins to show them. It becomes more difficult for him to control himself.

According to V. N. Komissarov the most important components of the meanings of figurative phrasal verbs when choosing their equivalent correspondences are the following:

- 1) the figurative component of the phrasal verb meaning;
- 2) the direct component of the phrasal verb meaning, which forms the basis of the image;
- 3) the emotional component of the phrasal verb meaning;
- 4) the stylistic component of the phrasal verb meaning;
- 5) the national-ethnic component of the phrasal verb meaning.

It is necessary to understand that an equivalent correspondence should reproduce the figurative meaning of the phrasal verb being translated, express the same emotional-evaluative attitude (positive, negative or neutral) and have an appropriate stylistic coloring.

In most cases when translating a figurative phrasal verb, the translator easily manages to convey the main meaning of it. However, preserving imagery in translation is a very difficult task, which is one of the main ones, that a translator is facing. The proximity of cultures helps to identify the imagery inherent in the utterance quite easily but in most cases, however, certain difficulties may arise when translating it into Russian. If necessary, imagery can be conveyed in translation using another image that is not embedded in the original. This is confirmed in practice. The following example is taken from the novel “Big Little Lies” by L. Moriaty.

“Celeste often did this; she’d be chatting perfectly normally and then she’d suddenly be floating off with the fairies” [4, p. 81]. «Селеста часто так делала: разговаривает нормально и вдруг куда-то уносится» [2, p. 154].

In this case, the translation «уплывает куда-то» would not be adequate, because in the Russian language when describing the thought process, verbs are often used that are associated with movement through the air related to the image of the wind. In this regard, the image of water is transformed into the image of the wind, which carries the object away from us.

Sometimes it is necessary to use a one-dimensional correspondence devoid of imagery in order to preserve the main component of meaning. It happens because it is not possible to find a Russian equivalent for

a figurative phrasal verb, even if it is based on a different image. For example, in some cases the Russian language may lack a verb that could simultaneously convey the main meaning, (which is the most important for the translator) and reflect the imagery inherent in the original.

Another reason for using a one-dimensional correspondence is that the equivalent in Russian, a figurative verb that would have the same meaning as the phrasal verb of the original, refers to a different communication register. For example, the figurative phrasal verb “to bottle up” has the stylistic label *formal* in the Macmillan Dictionary Phrasal Verbs Plus. It is used in a stable combination with the word “feelings” when it comes to certain negative feelings and emotions. The Russian word «закупоривать» is also used in combination with negative feelings. It has a vivid imagery and is based on the same image as the phrasal verb (закупоривают бутылку). However, it has a stylistic mark of *разг.* in the explanatory dictionary of the Russian language by D. N. Ushakov. Therefore, it cannot be used in translation. The phrasal verb “to bottle up” corresponds to the translation «подавлять, сдерживать» in the English-Russian dictionary of Courtney. In this case the vivid imagery will be lost, but the main meaning will be conveyed correctly.

In conclusion, it should be noted that when translating phrasal verbs with figurative potential, one should take into account the communicative conditions of their use, the communication registers to which they can be attributed. The translator should be careful in his desire to convey as accurately as possible the imagery inherent in the original. He must make sure that the equivalent of the figurative phrasal verb he has chosen belongs to the same communication register, or at least to a neutral one. It is necessary to take into account the pragmatic properties of figurative phrasal verbs and their connotative meanings reflected in lexicographic sources; to take into account the semantic, figurative, stylistics components of phrasal verbs.

The translator must remember that the tasks facing him are not unsolvable, despite the strictness of the requirements for translation.

Список цитированных источников

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