http://www.moderntechno.de/index.php/meit/article/view/meit25-03-074
DOI: 10.30890/2567-5273.2023-25-03-074

SPECIFICS AND WAYS OF TRANSLATION OF TOPONYMS (BASED ON ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN)

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Abstract. *The present paper is devoted to the multi-paradigmal aspects of translation of toponyms in English and Russian. Specifics of the language units under analyses and their translation are characterized in it. The term toponym is used here in its wide meaning. Following I.I. Revzin and V.Yu. Rozentsveyg, the definition of ways of translation was given here. The monograph chapter contains the description of ways of translation of toponyms in Russian and English in texts of different*

Key words: *toponyms, contrastive multi-paradigmal analyses, translation studies, ways of translation, translator's transformations*

Introduction

Nowadays the problems of translation of toponyms (i.e., geographical names), in particular, in frames of the world languages, languages of international communications, such as English and Russian, have become rather topical despite they have been analyzed by linguists and translation theorists for decades. They stay rather burning predominantly due to the further development of areal linguistics and mapping.

There are many toponyms, existing in the languages under analyses as internationalisms, even as multi-disciplinary lexis. The spheres of their usage is mainly extended by texts of official and business language as well as texts of the publicistic style. In the middle of the XXth century most of these nominations were translated into the languages of the UN member countries and, as a result, unified in this way. At the same time, the further development of the system of toponyms in the languages has been going on due to recent social processes of processes of globalization and integration in the world, economic development, changing of the world market, also COVID-pandemic, social and political crisis in some countries of the world, wars, etc. That's what keeps toponyms as special language units on the wave of topicality up to now.

1. The aim of the research, its material, sources, key terms, methodology and procedure

The present work is *aimed* to define specifics of toponyms in English and Russian and characterize ways of their translation in texts of different discourses. In this connection, *text* is considered as "any verbalized (i.e. expressed by means of human language) communicative event performed via … human language, no matter whether this communication is performed in written or in oral mode" [Maksimov 2006, p. 7], and discourse – as "a complex communicative phenomenon, which includes, besides the text itself, other factors of interaction (such as shared knowledge, communicative goals, cognitive system of participants, their cultural competence, etc.), i.e. all that is necessary for successful production and adequate interpretation (comprehension and translation) of the text" [Maksimov 2006, p. 8].

There is no the only approach of modern linguists concerning the notion of the term *toponym*. Taking into consideration the main definitions of it, it is necessary to distinguish the narrow and wide meanings of this term. In its narrow meaning toponym is understood (as usual) as any geographical name (i.e., names of seas, oceans, hills, mountains, bays, rivers, etc.). In its wide meaning toponym means a word or word combination denoting a geographical name, or a name of administrative-territorial place, name of a planet, a star, a galaxy, etc.[1]

The *material* of the research is represented by English and Russian toponyms (in the wide meaning of the term) taken from both texts of different functional styles (see [www.bbc.com, www.yahoo.com], etc.) as well as English and Russian dictionaries of the contemporary languages [Murray 1970; Горская 1994; Жданова 2008] which were used as the *sources* of the research. Totally more than 5000 nominations have been analyzed.

The research was conducted in frames of the *complex, contrastive multi-paradigmal analyses* (see its *methodology* and *procedure* in detail in [Terekhova, Chen, Chzhan 2022; Терехова 2012; Терехова, Чень, Чжан, Лю 2022а].

2. Specifics of Translation of Toponyms in a Discourse

The problems of translation of toponyms in texts of official and business style as well as in the publicistic texts are partially predetermined by the specifics of the corresponding discourses.

Depending on the type and genre of the text the ways of conveying of toponyms may be more or less exact: e.g. (1) engl. *The aircrash took place in 10 km to the airport Gatwick* – rus. *Авиакатастрофа произошла в 10-ти километрах от аэропорта Гэтвик* and (1) engl. *It happened near Gatwich* – rus. *Это случилось возле Гэтвика.*

In the given example (1) the information is referred to Mass Media texts presenting official information. Example (2) contains the way of presenting the info in the Internet, non-official sources, fictional texts, etc. In both examples engl. *Gatwick* – rus. *Гэтвик* is used in its main – nominative function. The word is stylistically neutral, both in the source language (further referred to as SL) and the target language (further – TL) as well. This toponym is well-known all over the world, so there is no reason to follow it with the name of the country of its location (GB). For less famous nominations it is necessary for all official and publicistic sources.

The most often used and well spread toponyms are unified and fixed in special lists of names of countries, capitals, etc. in dictionaries (see, for example, Oxford, Cambridge, Longman issues, multitran.ru, etc.). For less well-known units most probably it will be necessary for a translator create the equivalent nomination in the TL or use translator's transformations, among which transliteration, transcription and their mixed-type are most often used: e.g. rus. *река Днепр, Крымские горы, Гибралтарский пролив* – engl. *the Dnipro River, the Crimean Mountains, the Gibraltar bay*, etc.).

[1] The given wide definition of a toponym is referred to linguistics. In Medical Science this term is also used to denote a part of a human or an animal body separated in anatomic analyses. This particular notion is not used in the present research as it is out of the subject of it.

Official and publicistic texts, say, Internet-articles, press-release, interview, etc. are created and refreshed every day. This is the type of texts where toponyms are used regularly. That's why it is important for a translator to stratify toponyms in the text as a particular language units and be ready to apply translator's transformations to convey them from the SL to the TL. It is essential to do it in frames of literary norms of the TL.

Toponyms belonging to the nationally based lexicon can become a challenge for a translator, e.g.: engl. *fork* – rus. *место слияния двух или более рек,* engl. *high-tide-shoreline* – rus. *береговая линия при поолной воде, приливе*, engl. *high energy coast* – rus. *берег (береговая линия) высокой волновой активности,* etc.). As one can see from the given examples, the descriptional translation or complex transformations are the most appropriate for such language units.

A special attention in translation is also should be paid to linguistic and cultural texts containing toponyms of different types, such as oiconyms, hydronyms, etc. [Латфуллина, Фомина 2008; 2012]. Complex transformations is the best solutions for it. The following models of complex transformations are preferable here: "transcription + descriptional translation / additional explication", "transliteration + descriptional translation / additional explication", "transcription + semantic translation + descriptional translation / additional explication", "transliteration + semantic translation + descriptional translation / additional explication". Let's see them in detail.

3. Ways of Translation of Toponyms from English to Russian

In works of modern theorists of translation a lot of different definitions are given to denote the term *ways of translation.* In the present paper the one by I.I. Revzin and V.Yu. Rozentsveyg is used. These authors define a way of translation as transition, transforming of SL units into the TL ones [Ревзин, Розенцвейг 1959].

Upon the analyses of more than 5000 SL non-fictional and fictional texts in English and their translations into Russian, the following ways of translation were found out as the most often used ones:

1) transliteration, for example: engl. *London* – rus. *Лондон*, engl. *Canada* – rus. *Канада*, engl. *Albania* – rus. *Албания*, engl. *India* – rus. *Индия*, engl. *Andorra* – rus. *Андорра*, etc.; engl. *lake Ontario* – rus. *озеро Онтарио*, engl. *lake Onega* – rus. *озеро Онега*, engl. *lake Glubokoe* – rus. *озеро Глубокое*, engl. *the Gibraltar (bay)* – rus. *Гибралтар*, etc.;

2) transcription, for example: engl. *the Rocky* – rus. (*горы*) *Роки*, engl. *Lewis* – rus. *Льюис*, engl. *Wick* – rus. *Уик*, etc.;

3) translator's transcription, for example: engl. *Bejin* – rus. *Пекин*, engl. *Leghorn* – rus. *Ливорно,* rus. *Крым* – engl. *the Crimea,* rus. *Карпаты* – engl. *the Carpatheans*, etc.;

4) translator's transliteration, for example: rus. *Москва* – engl. *Moscow*; engl. *the Andes* – rus. *Анды*, engl. *the Arctic* – rus. *Арктика*, engl. *the Equator* – rus. *Экватор,* engl. *Cyprus* – rus. *Кипр*, etc.;

5) literal translation, for example: engl. *the North Sea* – rus. *Северное море*, engl. *Shetland island* – rus. *о. Шетленд,* engl. *the Black Sea* – rus. *Черное море*, engl. *the Red Sea* – rus. *Красное море*, etc.;

6) synonymous substitution, for example: engl. *Everest* – rus. *Эверест – Джомолунгма, Святая Мать [www.4sport.ua],* engl. *K2* – rus. *К2 – Чогори, Большая гора*, engl. *Măkălu Shän – Makaru, Makalungma* – rus. *Макалу – Черный великан [www.4sport.ua],* engl. *Manasa* – rus. *Манаса – Кутанг*, etc.;

7) equivalent translation, for example: engl. *the English Channel* – rus. *Ла Манш*, engl. *tarn* – rus. *ледниковое озеро,* engl. *the Middle East* – rus. *Ближний Восток*, engl. *the Straight of Dover* – rus. *Па-де-Кале*, etc.;

8) discriptional translation, or additional explication, for example: engl. *the Alps* – rus. *Альпийские горы*, engl. *the Carpatheans* – rus. *Карпатские горы*, engl. *Midlands* – rus. *Мидлендс (графство, расположенное в центральной части Англии, Великобритания)*, engl. *Buckingham Palace* – rus. *Букингемский дворец (резиденция королевской семьи Великобритании)*, engl. *Pembrokeshire Coast* – rus. *Пемброкширский национальный парк (побережье Уэльса, Великобритания)*, etc.;

9) complex transformations, or mixed-type translation, including omission (for example, the article is often omitted while translating from English to Russian), grammatical, logical, or stylistic inversion, grammar form change or grammar category change. For example: engl. *the Bahamas* – rus. *Багамские острова* (here complex transformation includes omission of the article + translator's transliteration + additional explication), engl. *the Caucasus* – rus. *Кавказ* (*the* article omission + translator's transcription), engl. *the South of Africa* – rus. *Юг Африки* (omission of the article and preposition + semantic translation + literal translation), etc.

Thus, translator's transformations are the best ways to pass over the problem of untranslatability in translation and convay the SL toponyms of different types into the TL. Even having faced in the text translation such toponyms – "milestones" as words of nationally based lexicon, cultural language units, etc., it will not be a problem to translate them using complex contrastive multi-paradigmal analyses and translator's transformations, in particular, as its part. Due to it the problem of untranslatability in translation (see more in [Влахов, Флорин 1980]) can be solved.

Conclusions

Modern non-fictional texts are tended to include both artefact and mentafact features, especially the ones of different genres of the publicistic style. Toponyms, regularly used in them, can be conveyed in some different ways, more or less exact, that corresponds to the stylistic features of the text, its content and closely connected with the intention of the author (or the speaker). The choice of a particular way of translation is also predetermined by the genry of the text, its communicative and pragmatic aims, communicative situation and the type of translation, as well. To make it more exact and adequate, the complex, contrastive multi-paradigmal analyses was used as the most appropriate one.

The term *toponym* is used in the present research in its wide meaning. It denotes a word or word combination denoting a geographical name, or a name of administrative-territorial place, name of a planet, a star, a galaxy, etc. Toponyms make a text more exact, informative, sometimes bring more local or national and cultural connotations, expressiveness.

The following ways of translation are mainly used to convey toponyms from

English to Russian and vice versa: transliteration, transcription, synonymous substitution, literal translation and complex transformations (i.e., "transcription + descriptional translation / additional explication", "transliteration + descriptional translation / additional explication", "transcription + semantic translation + descriptional translation / additional explication", "transliteration + semantic translation + descriptional translation / additional explication"). Less used are practical transcription, practical transliteration and descriptional translation.

Further investigation of toponyms and ways of their translation are foreseen in the fields of linguistics of translation, contrastive linguistics, psycholinguistics, linguistics and culture studies.

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