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## Список умовних скороченнь

гот. – готське гр. – грецьке д.в. – давальний відмінок д.в.н. – давньоверхненімецьке д.евр. – давньоєврейське же. – жіноче іллір. – іллірійське кан. – канонічне кельт. – кельтське к.в. – кличний відмінок

латин. – латинське м.в. – місцевий відмінок нім. – німецьке п/б – по батькові рим. – римське р.в. – родовий відмінок розм. – розмовне ч. – чоловіче укр. екв. – український еквівалент

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## The Principal Ways of English Slang Translation and Its Analysis

The article was written at the Department of Foreign Languages Studies for Natural and Mathematic Specialities, Lesia Ukrainka Volyn National University

Розглянуто основні способи перекладу англійських сленгових утворень, наголошено на значенні фонових знань для пошуку відповідних еквівалентів, проаналізовано переклад окремих сленгових одиниць.

**Ключові слова:** переклад, лексичні та стилістичні перешкоди, функціональний стиль, стилістичний статус, текст оригіналу, еквівалентний, мистецтво перекладу, методологія, описовий переклад, явище, відповідність, фонові знання.

<u>Онищенко И. А. Основные способы перевода английского сленга и его анализ.</u> В статье рассматриваются основные способы перевода английских сленговых образований, подчеркивается значение фоновых знаний для выявления соответствующего эквивалента, анализируется перевод отдельных сленговых единиц.

**Ключевые слова:** перевод, лексические и стилистические трудности, функциональный стиль, стилистический статус, текст оригинала, эквивалент, искусство перевода, методология, описательный перевод, явление, соответствие, фоновые знания.

Onyshchenko I. A. The Principal Ways of English Slang Translation and Its Analysis. The article deals with the principal ways of English slang translation, emphasising the importance of background knowledge to find necessary equivalents, presenting the analysis of definite slangy words.

**Key words:** translation, lexical and stylistic difficulties, functional style, stylistic status, source text, equivalent, art of the craft of translation, methodology, descriptive translation, phenomenon, correspondence, background knowledge.

**Description of the problem under consideration and its significance.** Translation is an operation performed on language: process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another one [3, 6]. During the translation a translator encounters certain grammatical, lexical and stylistic difficulties. Slang, like any other category of language vocabulary, follows all rules of the language. Except for some purely parodying grammatical means it does not have its specific grammar. Slang is a constantly changing phenomenon; it may die or begin to thrive. Slang is also a social phenomenon that reflects our society. Slang is unruly,

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irrelevant, unrefined and illogical. It frequently arises from the need or desire of a particular subculture to create or maintain secrecy from want of recognition or acceptance, or fear of prejudice, persecution, or exposure, or to describe situations, acts and things not common in the dominant culture. The specification of slang is expressed in pronunciation and intonation, the lexicon, word formation and in some specially employed rhetorical devices used to construct discourse [6]. Slang is stylistically coloured vocabulary that is why during the translation a translator faces difficulties connected with the stylistics of translation. Stylistics of translation is an acute problem of modern translatology. It is determined by the fact that stylistics deals with the functional styles of the language, functional analysis of the language means at the levels of the language hierarchy, their occurrence, as well as the study of stylistic devices.

Each genre, each functional style requires a special type of translation [1, 55]. The translator should bear in mind whether the matter under translation is within the literary or colloquial type of the language. The translator has to preserve the stylistic status of the source text by using the equivalents of the same style, or failing that, options for stylistically neutral words [3, 134].

According to P. Newmark, «a translator may regard the whole text as an amalgam of standardized and non-standardized language. The distinction between them is that for standardized language there should be only one equivalent, while for non-standardized language only one correct equivalent, that is the art of the craft of translation».

Substandard language units cause some difficulties for the translator. There is no methodology for translating slang. G. Newberg has pointed out that the fast majority of slang and colloquial words are either metaphorical, or have some marked phonoaesthetic or formal peculiarities; for instance *pot*, *tea*, *dope*, *herd*, *boo*, *maryzine* for marihuana. Slang is a peculiar English term which denotes any fresh innovation in the language. Since it is sensitive to time and local culture, the translation problems hardly land to generalization. Whenever the target language has no equivalent words the translator has a choice between transcription and literal / verbal translation. Descriptive translation may also be resorted to.

In isolated cases slang is translated on the same line as metaphor, bearing in mind that except for common events slang equivalents are rather rare, and the translator may have to put in the slang where he can. For example: I have always thought you'd make a corking good actress. – Я завжди думав, що ти станеш справді класною актрисою [3, 140–141].

The present research aims to provide some main ways of slang translation and its analysis.

Exposition of the bulk of material and substantiation of the results obtained in the course of research. The most common way to translate slang is by means of the target language equivalents [2]. While the majority of the translators claim that the target language is always slang-lacking equivalents, we should emphasize again that slang as a social phenomenon, is the reflection of the mentioned socium. That is why, if the most popular spheres of slang usage in Great Britain are music, sex and drugs, so they are in our country. This means that in the Ukrainian language there are also slangy words and expressions of the same kind. The following examples make it, obvious that the above mentioned statement is true since such words as *трава, план, косяк* stand for marihuana; лаба, лабаджос, музон – for music; бичий кайф, біла, біленька, бімбер, бодяга, вакса, вода, газ, казенка, сльози радості, хамло, ханка, чекеуха, йорж, шпок – for vodka; байда, балабас, балда, гарбуз, дах, диня, кавун, казан, кабіна, каструля, качан, клуня, криша, купол, маклабан, чайник, шарабан, ящик – for head; акча, аржан, бабки, бабло, башлі, голуби, дріжджі, дукати, гульдени, драхми, зуза, капуста, крейцери, лаве, манка, папір, пеньонзи, повітря, прайс, рижики, сармак, тугрики, фанера, фарис, фішки, форинти, форси, хрусти, чабар, шайбами, шайби, кусок, шматок, штука – for money; антрацит, балда, кайф, марафет, хандра, хімія, шмаль, біле сонце пустелі, гера, ширево, ширка, ефедрин, джеф, соплевич, коко, кокс, чума, мар'я іванівна, вагон - for narcotic; бікса, бедка, бублик, кадра, катакомба, клізма, курва, мочалка, нічний метелик, свердловина, скотина, сонце, халява, чума, шалава, шмара, еммануель, банова бікса, батон, дівчина 96 проби, муха, соска, пейзажистка, дальнобійниця, трасовичка, шалала, ящірка – for whore; алік, алколоїд, алкан, алконавт, алкаш, алкашист, баклажан, бормотолог, бухар, бухарик, бухля, зюзік, зюзьмак, пивовар, синій, синька, синюх, синяк, сливняк, спиртометр, фантомас, ханига, ханурик, хрон, чепушило, хмир, чмошник – for alcoholic; алкати, банячити, бадяжити, бухати, голитися, гудіти, давити сливу, дрінкати, жлуктити, закладати, колдирити, квасити, киряти, ковбасити, киряти, сидіти на стакані, синячити, сливити, собачити, хронячити, цмулити, читата – for drinking; бадло, будка, вивіска, віза, гризло, гудок, дупа, картка, мармиза, мордопис, паспорт, пачка, ряха, співальник, табло,

фейс, фізія, фотка, фішка, афіша – for face etc. The problem is background knowledge which can enable a translator to find the necessary equivalents. In case a translator does succeed to find such an equivalent, it will be not a regular but an occasional or functional equivalent which would successfully render the meaning of the unit in the particular case and fit in the particular context. Let's take a few examples from one of the most popular spheres of using slang today, that is computers:

- I. antidote antivirus program антивіруска;
- II. to boot to start a program загрузити;
- III. box computer комп [5, 152–153];
- IV. hedgehog a person whose abilities are limited to one machine or program чайник.

Another new sphere of using slang is mobile communication. Here are some examples:

- 1. collibration the availability of using the vibrate option on the phone вібра [7];
- 2. celly, annoy toy cell phone itself мобілка [7];
- 3. cellarized one who walks down the street talking loudly on a cell phone пантьор [7];
- 4. power bars incremental lines in the screen of a cell phone that indicate signal power кубики [7].

It should be noted that if the phenomenon under consideration exists in the target language country, then it is possible to find correspondences of this or that slangy word. Still there are a lot of cases when target language has no equivalent words and it appears to be a constant source of trouble for the translator who then has a choice between transcription and literary verbal translation. Very often equivalent-lacking units, such as slang, may be translated by explaining the figurative meaning of a slangy word through a descriptive translation:

- 1. Bermude angle відсутність зони покриття;
- 2. disconnectis стан користувача, коли несподівано розряджається батарея;
- 3. harry-big-button дешевий електронний пристрій [6].

In rare cases slang is translated into the same lines as metaphor, namely, by reproducing the same image in the target language or by replacing the image in the source language with a standard target language image bearing in mind that except for common events slang equivalents are rare and the translator may have to put in the slang where he can:

- 1. Are you telling porkies? Ти що, гониш?
- 2. I haven't heard a dicky beard about it. Я не в курсі.

It is now evident from what has been said that there are no prescribed methods of translating slang. Any attempt to create or develop a system of slang translation methods will inevitably end in failure because of the very nature of the phenomenon as slangy words are ill-adapted to serve as a medium of intercourse. The very currency of slang depends on its allusions to things which are not supposed to be universally familiar or generally respectable; and hence it is often vulgar since it brings in associations with what is for the moment regarded as unknown or in bad repute. Slang is not only unstable but it also has no fixed meaning. Its terms are vague and ill defined, and they grow more and more uncertain from day to day [4, 272].

The above knowledge makes it obvious that while translating slang, the translator has a choice between searching for Ukrainian slangy equivalent which will possess similar expressiveness, or trying to explain it and to interpret the source language meaning, that is, to apply descriptive method of translation. Some modern dictionaries can also be helpful but usually they only give general, stylistically neutral meaning of the slangy word. Besides, the translator should take into consideration the importance of the background knowledge of slang – that is, the situation and environment in which a slangy word is used. Here we present some extracts from the selected text from the novel «Trainspotting» by Irvine Welsh followed by translation and semantic analysis of the point in question that will illustrate the above mentioned information:

Tommy: Doesn't it make you proud to be Scottish?

Renton: It's a shit being Scottish! We are the lowest of the low! The scum of the Fucking Earth! The most wretched, miserable, servile, pathetic trash that was ever shat into civilization! Some people hate English. I don't try! They are just wankers! We, on the other hand, are colonized by wankers. Can't even find a decent culture to be colonized by! We are ruled by effete arseholes! It's a shite state of affairs to be in, Tommy! And all the fresh air in the world won't make any fucking difference.

Томмі (дивлячись на гори): Невже це не змушує гордитись тим, що ти шотландець?

Рентон (п'яний): Бути шотландцем – повне лайно! Ми найнижчі серед нижчих! Покидьки огидної землі! Найнещадніше поневолене сміття, яке коли-небудь викидалося до цивілізації. Дехто

ненавидить англійців. Я — ні! Вони просто тормози! А ми зі свого боку колонізовані тормозами! Ми навіть не спромоглися знайти гідної культури, яка б нас колонізувала! Нами правлять нещасні задниці! Томмі, ми в повному лайні! І ніщо у світі нічого нахрєн не змінить!

Semantic Analysis of the Text's Slangy Words. While translating the units under consideration the translator tried to replace the source language units by their Ukrainian equivalents and in case of failing to do so the neutral words were chosen. Here are the brightest language slangy units to be paid attention to:

- 1) «It's a shit being Scottish» can be conveyed as «бути шотландцем повне лайно!» The transformed variant of the sentence is preferable. Besides, the original slangy word (shit) meaning «rubbish, nonsense, the act of defecation» is replaced by the appropriate target language equivalent (повне лайно) which is today commonly used in such situations;
- 2) «Wankers» can be translated as «тормози» It is an old English word, a very common term of abuse. A wanker is an idiot or unpleasant person. The translator uses the Ukrainian corresponding word (тормоз) having similar emotional colouring and is therefore preferable;
- 3) «Effete arsehole» with the variants нещасні задниці, нещасні дупи. The original expression is replaced by the target language equivalent despite the corresponding Ukrainian expression is not widely used and sounds rather vulgar;
- 4) «Won't make any fucking difference» can be translated as «нічого нахрєн не змінить». The transformed variant of the sentence can be accepted. The translator does his best to preserve the pragmatic potential of the original expression by finding target language equivalent not so vulgar as the original one.

«Transpotting» The final hit.

Renton: I wished that I'd gone down instead of Sprud. Here I was surrounded by my family and so-called mates and I've never felt so alone. Since I was on remand, they had me on this program, this state sponsored addition. Three sickly sweet doses of methadone a day instead of smack. But it is never enough. I took all this morning and now I have got eighteen hours until my next shot. I've got sweat on my back like a layer of frost. I need to visit Mother Superior for one hit. One final hit to get us over this long, hard day.

«На голці» Остання ін'єкція.

Рентон: Шкода, що я не пішов замість Спада. Тут я був би в оточенні сім'ї і ніколи не почувався б таким самотнім. Так як я був на голці, вони взяли мене у програму — цю фінансовану державою наркоманію. Три жах як бажані дози метадону на день замість гери. Але цього ніколи не достатньо. Сьогодні вранці я прийняв усі три і тепер доведеться чекати вісімнадцять годин, щоб знову ширнутись! Ще одна ін'єкція, яка допоможе пережити цей довгий та важкий день.

Semantic Analysis of the Text's Slangy Words. While translating the transcript «hit» the translator is looking for a successful target language equivalent and failing to find one appeals to a neutral word (ін'єкція) meaning the same but lacking expressiveness.

Still more difficult to convey is undoubtedly the word-combination «sickly sweet doses». The translator uses the target language substitute «жах як бажані дози» that reflects the emotional attitude of the speaker to his utterance.

Our bilingual dictionaries give two appropriate variants for the slangy word «smack» (cf. 1) біле сонце пустелі; 2) гера). The first one cannot be semantically equivalent to the English noun «smack» being too figurative for the situation. So the translator uses somewhat more neutral variant for the English word for «heroine», that is repa.

«Shot, hit», the next words that show great interest are usually translated successfully as ширнутися for this can be easily found in the drug addicts' slang dictionary.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. To summarize the data that have been analyzed, it can be noted that the idea to create certain prescribed methods of translating slang is hopeless because of the very nature of the point in question as slangy words are not only unstable but they have no fixed meaning and their terms are vague and ill defined. Therefore it is quite natural that while translating slangy words the translator encounters certain grammatical, lexical and stylistic difficulties. It is necessary to emphasize that translation of slang is mostly concerned with its stylistic peculiarities. The translator should preserve stylistic status of the source language text by using the equivalents of the same style, if failing that, options for stylistically neutral words. It means that successful appropriate target language equivalents for slangy words are the best and the most common ways of translating slang.

Another possible way of slang translation is a descriptive method that can be treated as the explanation of the figurative meaning of a slangy word (Вегмиde angle – відсутність зони покриття).

In rare cases slang is translated into the same lines as metaphors, namely by reproducing the same image in the target language or by replacing the image in the source language with a standard target language image (Are you telling porkies? – Ти що, гониш?).

The above aspects of translating slangy words show that among all existing methods the possibility to find an appropriate target language equivalent appears to be preferable. The translator should not try to use neutral target language units instead of original slangisms as it always causes the distortion of style. To avoid it the translator should search for an equivalent that will reflect the emotional colouring of the original unit

In this regard there are some prospects for further research of slang translation, namely to investigate special types of slang translation in different genres and functional styles, with firm knowledge whether the point under translation is within the literary or colloquial type of the language.

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## Микола Зеров: фахівець класичної філології, перекладач і поет, «закоханий у вроду слів»

Роботу виконано на кафедрі практики англійської мови ВНУ ім. Лесі Українки

У статті розглянуто життя й творчість видатного українського літературознавця, аналітичного критика, полеміста, лідера «неокласиків», майстра сонетної форми та блискучого перекладача.

Ключові слова: неокласик, неокласицизм, розстріляне відродження, репресії, переклад, сонет.

<u>Павлюк А. Б. Николай Зеров: специалист классической филологии, переводчик и поэт, «влюбленный в красоту слов».</u> В статье рассматривается жизнь и творчество выдающегося украинского литературоведа, аналитического критика, полемиста, лидера «неоклассиков», мастера сонетной формы и блестящего переводчика.

Ключевые слова: неоклассик, неоклассицизм, расстрелянное возрождение, репрессии, перевод, сонет.

<u>Pavliuk A. B. Mykola Zerov: A Classical Philology Specialist, a Translator and a Poet, Who «Loves the Beauty of Words».</u> The article deals with the life and work of a prominent Ukrainian specialist in literature, a literary critic, a polemicist, the leader of the «neoclassicists», an expert of a sonnet form and a brilliant translator.

Key words: neoclassicist, neoclassicism, executed renaissance, repression, translation, sonnet.

**Постановка наукової проблеми та її значення.** Поліглот, ерудит, блискучий лектор, захисник загальнолюдських моральних цінностей та вишуканого українського слова... [9]; визначний літера-

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