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THE ASPECT OF REALIAS IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the specificity of translation of realias – linguistic units reflecting national life, which are generally studied in linguoculturology. Realia are a stumbling block in translation, since the translator should recreate the text for the reader preserving not only the ideological content of realia, but also the national and historical colouring. Thus, the following paper reveals both the origin and usage of realia in the context, identifies the most possible methods of rendering realia and leads to better translation. By the way, it helps to identify the origin meaning of culture block words in different cultures. As well as, this article deals with how to translate realias in three ways: transliteration, neologisms, collocations. Each culture has its own denominations of national and historical elements, objects, phenomena, which are defined by the term “realia”. Realia, elements of a foreign culture, with ethnic, historical or local colouring, are frequently used in foreign language as a means of helping students to develop functional knowledge of the target language in terms of vocabulary and culture. “Realia are a stumbling block in translation, since the translator should recreate the text for the reader preserving not only the ideological content of realia, but also the national and historical colouring. Thus, the following paper reveals the originate of realias, their items in different cultures, as well as, the origin and usage of realia in the context”¹.

KEYWORDS: *Linguoculturology, Realia, Customs, Traditions, National Language, Culture, Linguistic Picture Of The World, Originality, Transliteration, Neologisms, Colocation.*

INTRODUCTION

The linguistic picture of the world is different for different nations. In the process of activity, a subjective reflection of the existing world appears in the human mind. “A person learns the language in the same way as the surrounding reality; at the same time, along with the logical,

conceptual picture of the world, a linguistic picture arises, which does not contradict the logical picture, but does not coincide with it".¹ Thus realias can color these picture by their meanings to understand and feel any culturesirems more and more openly. So, what is realia itself?

Formation Origin: Stem Prefix Result Singular "res"(matter, thing) + -alis (sgpr) = reālisPlural "res" + -a (plpr) = realia.

“The semantic and connotative content of realia is rather confusing. Notwithstanding linguistic differences, care should be taken not to confuse the field of realia with the field of terms and proper names. Terms are the basis of scientific lexicon, their scope is specialized and they are used with a definite aim.”²

Realia represent elements of local and historical phenomenon, which are usually met not only in artistic, but also in scientific literature. As for realia and proper names, they are so closely connected that V. V. Vinogradov etc. include proper names in the category of realia, while S. I. Vlahov, S. Florin consider realia to be included in the class of in equivalent vocabulary. Imagine a culture to be a clock face - realia, terms and proper names form the clock system. The resonant frequency of clock speed equals to the beat pattern of culture pulse. Each group does its work, each one cooperates with another and each realizes the importance of being on the clock face; “The best result comes from everyone in the group doing what is best for himself and the group”. Consequently, without mutual understanding, culture clock cannot work properly and therefore culture cannot exist.

Realia as an Object of Translation

Realia really reveals reality, such as English derby, Greek monocle, Spanish moustache, British four-in-hand, gauntlets, footed cup or Dutch brandy flask (pic. 1), that depict abstract cultural nuances creating a sense of déjà vu. Each flask of culture gleams the scenery of a unique room.

In every language, there are words that, without distinguishing themselves in the original text, are not easily transmissible into another language; among these words are met denominations of everyday life, history, culture etc. (traditional clothes, musical instruments, newspapers, such as “The Times”), that do not have an exact match in another language and require a special approach in translation, e.g. kimono – кимоно.

In translation studies these words have received the name of realia. The word "realia" originates from Latin word “reālis” meaning "real-life thing or material”

Classification of Linguistic Realia according to S. I. Vlahov and S. Florin

According to S. I. Vlahov and S. Florin there are different classifications of linguistic realia according to time, semantic, local or other features:

1. Geographic realia, e.g. steppe – степь, ёџа, Strait of Magellan – Магел-ланов пролив, etc.; name endemics, e.g. sequoia - секвойя, iguana – игуана, etc.
2. Ethnographic realia, e.g. Cossack - казак, Goth – гот, transfer of realia pound - фунт, Frank – франк, etc.
3. Socio-political realia, e.g. Tory – тори, яџ, ataman – атаман, дума – дума, the Knesset – кнессет, etc.

4. Historical realia, e.g. samurai – самурай, ушўп л р шў , Oppenheimer- Оппенгеймер, trilby- трилби(мягкаяфетроваяшляпа, Yeoman of the Guard - лейб-гвардейцы(дворцоваястража в Англии), etc.

The ways how to translate realias

1. Transcription and transliteration are distinguished from methods of realia translation as the first fundamental division. ‘Transcription is the transmission of sounds of a foreign language using the alphabet of the receiving culture, e.g. , London – Лондон, while transliteration is the transmission of letters. Mostly, transcription and transliteration are used in publicistic style and quite often in literature, depending on the nature of the text granting the text certain exotics. ‘Transcription and transliteration are interrelated with each other; a paragon is Utah, which is translated into Russian as Утах being the result of transcription, instead of Юта– the result of both. It is what happens with the German Walküre, actualized in other languages as Valkyrie (English), валькирия (Russian), (Armenian).’⁴ Thus, transcription is the phonetic tool with which transliteration fulfills the act of translation.

2. ‘Neologism is a method of translation, which preserves the semantic content and colour of realia by coining a word or phrase used in a new sense. Calque, a method of neologism, usually means loan translation of a simple or composed word or word combination by literally transforming the elements of the expression in the source culture, e.g. skyscraper- небоскрёб, колхоз(коллективное хозяйство) - collective farm, the House of Commons - палата общин, the First Lady - Первая Леди. Then there is half-calque, in which just a part of a composed expression is preserved, e.g. the translation of the German expression Dritte Reich in English, Третий Рейх in Russian Armenian. It should be noted that calque or half-calque could take widespread rank in the language, but in the end remain as an exoticism for its denotation is alien in the culture.

3. During contextual translation, realia are substituted with words that in the original context explain the sense of such a collocation. It is a word or word combination, created by the translator, in order to permit the rendition of the semantic content of realia, e.g.

Сколько стоит путевка на советский курорт?

How much are accommodations at a Soviet spa?

In the following example, the sense of курорт is lost being a sort of official certificate given to someone going on vacation that in Soviet times could have been free or cost a symbolic sum. Evidently, this word has no analogue outside Soviet Russia.

Regarding these above, it is challenging action to translate realias one language to another, however learning and using these could assist as a magical key to learner to be and to feel this culture during in the conversion.

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