

Rendering Sovietisms in English Translations of Ukrainian Works in Ukraine and Abroad

Kalnychenko, Natalia

Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia
e-mail: nataliia.kalnychenko@umb.sk

Kalnychenko, Oleksandr

Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia/ V/N/ Karazin National University
e-mail: o.a.kalnychenko@karazin.ua

Lizon, Martin

Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia
e-mail: Martin.Lizon@umb.sk

“Sovietisms”, which can be defined as words, phrases or phraseology of the USSR, representing socialist reality and carrying certain information related to the history of the Soviet Union and the way of life during this period [1, 60], are a subcategory of historical realia (culture-bound words). Vlahov and Florin define ‘realia’ as lexical items of the source language which denote objects, phenomena and practices characteristic of one nation, or language community – its everyday life, culture, social and historical development – and absent in another; these lexical items hence have no accurate correspondences in the target language and require a special treatment in translation [2, 47].

Given that Ukraine was a part of the USSR for many years, the works of Ukrainian writers of the time depicting the life of a Soviet person inevitably included many “Sovietisms.” With equal success, a certain number of Sovietisms can be found in the works of some contemporary Ukrainian writers.

Thus, the relevance of our study lies in the fact that translators who translate both works of Soviet classics and works by contemporary Ukrainian writers constantly face the problem of rendering Sovietisms, i.e. words or concepts unknown to people who have not lived under Communism.

In our work, we hypothesized that certain ways of transferring Sovietisms would prevail in translations published in Western countries, and some other ways in

translations published in the USSR. So, the study was based on some 400 examples of rendering Sovietisms selected from five translations published in the USSR: *Man and Arms* and *The Shore of Love* by Oles Honchar; *The Weeds* by Andriy Holovko; *The Swan Flock* and *Green Mills* by Vasyl Zemlyak. In Soviet Ukraine, translations of fiction into English were published by the Dnipro publishing house, and in Moscow by the Progress publishing house, which also published some works by Ukrainian writers, but in translation from Russian translations.

We also analyzed four translations published abroad by the Ukrainian diaspora. These are novels: *The Cathedral* by Oles Honchar; *Recreations* and *The Moskoviad* by Yuriy Andrukhovych; and *The Hunters and the Hunted* by Ivan Bahrianyi.

Categorization of translation techniques for rendering culture-bound words ('realia' is the term used in Eastern European tradition) was made by Bulgarian researchers Sergeï Vlahov (1917–2011) and Sider Florin (1912–1999) who developed their views in the monograph *Niepierevodimoie v perevode* [The Untranslatable in Translation] [2].

Realia can be either transcribed or translated. Transcription in the case of translations from a language using a non-Latin alphabet to any language using the Latin alphabet (retaining the graphic/phonetic form of the original lexical item (direct transfer) in the case of the same alphabetic system). In languages with differing scripts, borrowing entails an additional need for transcription.

Translation (or substitution) includes:

(1) introduction of neologisms ('loan translation') like (a) calque; (b) half-calque; (c) 'assimilation' (osvoenie), i.e., making a foreign word look like a native one; (d) semantic neologism;

(2) approximate translation like (a) hyperonymic substitution (generalization); (b) functional analogue; (c) explicitation, description, or explanation;

(3) contextual translation [2, 93].

The study found that in translations published in English in the Soviet Union, the most frequent method of transmitting Sovietisms was the use of a *functional*

analog (35.7 % of the total number of examples of rendering Sovietisms in Soviet translations) (*військома* – military registration and enlistment office). When using this method, the realia is replaced by a similar concept of a target culture. In the next example, the Sovietism *норма ГПО* (Russian *ГТО*) – the basis of the physical education system in the Soviet Union, is replaced in the translation by a *physical fitness badge*, a concept that is primal to the US culture, a badge given to soldiers who passed the army's physical fitness test:

– *Оце стрибок, – зауважив Духнович. – Можна цілком зарахувати за норму ГПО!*

“Wow, that was quite a jump,” *Dukhnovich* remarked. “He could easily qualify for his physical fitness badge.”

In contrast, in translations published by publishing houses in the USA or Canada, the most frequent technique was calquing (42.1 % of the total number of examples of the use of Sovietisms in translations published in Canada and the United States), which means the borrowing of foreign words, expressions or phrases by literally translating the corresponding linguistic unit contained in the target language (*секретар обкому – the secretary of the regional committee*). Calquing can occur at the lexical, morphological, semantic and syntactic levels.

However, in all translations, the percentage of transcoding (the process of reproducing words of the source language using similar phonetic correspondences of the target language, transliteration or transcription) remains high (15.3 % in Soviet translations and 20.2 % in foreign translations). Below are some examples of transliteration:

Зате в маленьких житейських подіях Явтушок міг би бути зарахованим до видатних людей. Це проявилось іще в часи лікнепу.

But in little wordly matters, Yavtukh could be ranked among the most outstanding of men. This was demonstrated back in the days of liknep.

А та, "в Одесі", була веселою, балакучою дівчиною. Вона – "хетагуровка", ентузіастка, що загналась в одні панчішках просто з благословенної сонячної Одеси в цей благословенний, розпропагований, опоетизований ДВК.

And the girl from 'our Odessa' was gay and talkative. She was 'Khetakhurovka', an enthusiast, who had come in light shoes direct from blessed, sunny Odessa to this over-publicized and romantic Far Eastern land.

It is worth noting that in translations published in the USSR, transliteration was done mostly from the Ukrainian language, while in translations published in the West, transliteration was done from the Russian language.

Оцим моментом і користуються куркулі.

That's the chance the kurkuls grab. (The Weed by Holovko, published by the Dnipro publishers)

Потім сипалися страшні погрози і прокляття на адресу «ворогів народу усіх мастей» та їхніх приспівників і симпатинів, а особливо металося громи і блискавиці на «куркулів і підкуркульників» і закликалося викорінювати всіх підряд жорстоко, немилосердно, повсякчас, і навіки вічні.

This followed frightful threats and curses against 'enemies of the people of every shade', their supporters and sympathizers. Special thundering blasts were directed at the 'kulaks and sub-kulaks' who were to be uprooted fiercely, mercilessly, now and for ever and ever

То, мамо, не хазяїн "радгосп", то скорочено, радянське, народне себто.

„Mother, sovkhos isn't a master, it is a short form for Soviet farm, that is a farm belonging to the people.“

An important role in the reader's understanding of Sovietism is played by the provision of footnotes or endnotes, for example:

NKVD (Russian: Narodnyi kommissariat vnutrennikh del), the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, Stalin's dreaded secret police.

In Soviet translations, only footnotes were used, while in Western translations, comments are provided mainly in endnotes.

Literature:

1. Зорівчак Р. П. Реалія і переклад. На матеріалі англomовних перекладів української прози. Львів : Видавництво при Львівському державному університеті, 1989. 217 с.
2. Vlakhov, Sergei and Sider Florin (1980) *Neperevodimoe v perevode* [The Untranslatable in Translation]. *Mezhdunarodnyie otnosheniya*.

**The development of English language in the sphere of business communication
through oral and written competencies**

Kangozhayeva R.B.

*Master of Pedagogical Sciences, Senior Lecturer, Department of Foreign Languages
College at the International Academy of Business
Almaty, Kazakhstan
e-mail: govorunkz@bk.ru*

In the era of globalization of economic life and the spread of the English language to most areas of business communication, translation from English and into English in the process of business communication not only does not lose its role, but actually acquires a "second wind". The broad development of international relations, the increase in the number of international companies served as an impetus for the transition of the English language to the official level. The reason for this event was certain historical factors:

1. The existence of a large number of former colonies of England (USA, Canada, Australia);
2. The use of the official language by such authoritative international organizations as the UN, UNESCO and others;
3. Deep involvement of English-speaking countries in geopolitics;
4. The rapid spread of the English language through the Internet.

Market research showed that the most important requirement for new-graduates from the side of companies and PR agencies is the ability to have written forms of intercultural communicative competence which implies the ability to write educated press-releases in foreign language. Of course, in this connection it is rather important to raise a question about how to teach the written competence. Here we