

Author's Transformations and Their Translation In "The Plumed Serpent" By D.H. Lawrence

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Abstract: *The article is devoted to the analysis of phraseological units (hereinafter referred to as PU) with author's transformation found in "The Plumed Serpent" by D.H. Lawrence, the peculiarities of their translation into Russian are also considered. Phraseological units with the author's transformations are analyzed in accordance with the classification of the latter developed by leading linguists from the Kazan Linguistic School. Each type of the author's transformation of PU was illustrated by numerous examples from the given piece of literature in the original language, as well as in the language of translation. Each case of translation was classified as for the used translation techniques, preservation of the author's transformation of PU and retaining the original figurativeness of the statements; English-Russian versions of PU were compared thoroughly. The result of such an analysis enabled us to estimate the quality of Russian translation of "The Plumed Serpent" by D.H. Lawrence, done by an official translator Valeriy Minushin.*

Key words: *phraseology, phraseological unit, author's transformations, classification, translation.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Lately many researchers in the field of phraseology have concentrated their efforts on the study of PU not only on the language level but speech level as well, within the frameworks of discourse. Consequently, the study of the use of PU in literary works of classical and modern literature is of interest. One of the authors with significant expertise in active usage and transformation of PU is David Herbert Lawrence. Many works have been dedicated to the legacy of this major writer of the XX century, but there are no any significant works dedicated to the usage of PU in his works. Still, the use of PU in their core form and especially with different types of transformations is of great importance and has been of considerable interest for researches [Davletbaeva et al 2013; Varlamova et al 2017].

At the same time, in our modern age of globalization, more and more fictional works are published in English. Consequently, the translators from English into Russian face an ever-increasing amount of requirements towards their translation skills and equivalence of the translated material [Kayumova et al 2017; Safiullina 2017; Yerbulatova et al 2017; Pakdel, & Talebbeydokhti 2018]. The PU translation is even more complicated, it is widely known that some people consider PU as being "untranslatable", that is why it is important to study and analyze the translation works on a practical level, namely in the context of insufficiently studied works of D.H. Lawrence.

II. METHODS

Within the present article, several methods of linguistic analysis have been used in complex, among them: the method of phraseological analysis by A.V. Kunin, the method of comparative and typological analysis, the method of statistical calculation, the method of contextual analysis together with the method of dictionary definitions, as well as the methodology of types of interlingual phraseological correlation identification on the basis of the theory of PU component identity by E.F. Arsenteva.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the novel "The Plumed Serpent" 35 PU with author's transformation have been analyzed. The analysis of transformations has been done on the basis of classification by E.F. Arsenteva, who identifies 9 types of author's transformations, namely: 1. phraseological pun; 2. addition of the component; 3. insertion; 4. substitution of the lexical component; 5. ellipsis; 6. phraseological reiteration; 7. phraseological contamination; 8. extended metaphor; 9. phraseological saturation of the context [Arsenteva, 2009].

The translation of the given PU with author's transformations has been studied taking into account whether the translator preserved the author's transformation of the PU or not, applied translation methods has been identified as well. At the end of the article the conclusion has been drawn as to whether the preservation of the author's transformation leads to greater appropriateness of translation.

In the course of the study, the following results have been gained: the "favorite" type of PU transformation by D.H. Lawrence is substitution of lexical component – out of 35 PU 11 of them have this type of transformation, i.e. 31%. Insertion of lexical component is also a popular type with 29%. Addition of component is used in 2 PU with insertion and one more PU is used only with addition of the component alone. Phraseological contamination is used 4 times, phraseological reiteration is used 3 times, ellipsis – 2 times. We have also found one example of phraseological contamination and one example of phraseological pun.

As for the translation, in 54% of all the cases the author's transformation has been preserved and in 46% cases the author's transformation while transferring to Russian has been lost due to different reasons. In most cases, the interpreter decided not to preserve the transformation because the lexical component was substituted by its synonym (3 out of 5 cases with substitution). In addition, the transformation was not preserved in such complicated cases as insertion (5 cases), phraseological reiteration (2 cases), phraseological contamination (1

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case), ellipsis (2), phraseological pun (1).

Substitution of the lexical component

According to the opinion of most researches substitution of lexical component or components is one of the most frequently used and effective ways of contextual transformation of PU, which is used in order to intensify the figurative meaning of PU, as well as its expressivity and emotiveness, and so as to clarify the meaning of PU.

In the works of Russian and foreign researchers it has been proved that the subject of substitution can be only non-crucial elements of PU, while the core elements have to remain unchanged. [Fernando 1976; Gibbs 1989; Cacciari 1998; Naciscione 2001; Naciscione 2010; Abdullina, 2007].

Some of this type of transformation are as follows:

"How small the world is!" said Kate

"Как тесен мир!" — сказала Кэт

In the remark of the leading character of the novel the PU "the world is a small place" – "мир тесен" is used in a novel interpretation owing to several substitutions of lexical components of this PU, namely: omission of the word "place" and adding of the adverb "how". In the target language the meaning of the PU with transformation is transferred very close, all the transformations, word order and exclamatory mark have been preserved.

Insertion

Insertion as one of the types of PU's transformation is the incorporation of words and phrases into the composition of PU. The first Russian researcher who described this phenomenon was A.V.Kunin [Kunin, 1973; Koskenoja, 2019]. After that, this type of transformation was studied by many scientists, among them Naciscione, Mokienko, Mendelson, Arsenteva, [Naciscione, 1982; Mokienko, 1980; Mendelson, 2009]. The researchers stressed that the intrusion is a specific method for the refreshment of the meaning of PU's base form. The main features of the insertion is the integration of the inserted words with the components of the PU. The main aim of this type of transformation is the clarification or intensification of the meaning. The following sentences can illustrate the usage of such a transformation:

"Then don't do it!" said Kate, who was impatient of Owen's **kicking at these very little social pricks**, and swallowing the whole porcupine"

"Тогда не надевай! — предложила Кэт, которую раздражала привычка Оуэна протестовать против подобных пустяковых условностей светского общества, но принимать его в целом".

In this sentence, the author applied several transformations to the PU "kick against the pricks" – "лезть на рожон", firstly, he transferred the verb into the verbal noun, and secondly, he added a number of defining words to the component "pricks": "these very little social". The translator was not able to transfer the figurativeness of this sentence, as he abandoned the idea of transforming the expressive Russian translation of the PU, which is given in the Phraseological Dictionary by V.A.Kunin, besides that the metaphor "swallow the whole porcupine" was not translated at all. The author of the Russian translation had to withdraw the figurativeness and translate the sentence in a more neutral style by means of description.

Phraseological saturation of the context

According to the works of A.Naciscione, phraseological saturation of context is said to be one of the most powerful means of influencing the recipient [Naciscione 2001; Naciscione 2010; Saurykova, et al 2018].

A vivid example of the phraseological saturation of the context is the abstract from the dialogue of two characters, where two Biblical PU are used, namely: "heaven on earth" and "hell on earth". Moreover, these PU have a concurring element that enables us to identify this as an example of phraseological reiteration. Let us study this example in details:

"...If only their deeds followed their words, Mexico would be heaven on earth."

"Instead of hell on earth," snapped the Judge".

"... Если бы их дела не расходились с их словами, Мексика была бы раем на земле."

— А не адом на земле, — резко сказал судья".

In Russian translation the first PU is transferred by non-phraseological method – by calque "рай на земле". In translation of the second PU the author preserved the concurring element "земля" and translated this PU by non-phraseological method in the form of calque as well – "ад на земле". Overall, conclusion can be drawn that in this case the translator was right to abandon the dictionary variant of translation by retaining the author's transformation of the PU.

Phraseological reiteration

Many researches consider phraseological reiteration to be one of methods for reader's emotional and expressive influence that are used very often. This type of transformation is used in order to intensify the statement.

Phraseological reiteration is used in the following emotional statement:

"Oh to be out, to be out of this, to be free!"

"Только бы выбраться, оказаться подальше отсюда, на свободе!"

In this statement, the verb "to be" is repeated three times, thus being an example of the phraseological reiteration of the second type, where the author repeats only a part of the PU "to be out of it" – "не принимать участия". The translator decides not to transfer the transformation thus altering the author's variant. In addition, he uses the antonymic translation and processes the meaning of the original PU "не принимать участия" into "оказаться подальше отсюда". However, at the same time the translator tries to retain the figurativeness by use of synonyms, i.e. "выбраться", "оказаться подальше", and the zero form of the Russian verb "быть": "на свободе".

Ellipsis

The essence of the ellipsis is the reduction of the number of PU components, thereby the limitation can be done only until the core element or elements, which deliver the basic meaning and contain the metaphorical meaning of the whole PU. In the dissertation thesis of A.Abdullina it has been experimentally proved that the reduction of the core component or components leads to the loss of the sense of the whole PU. The reduction of other PU components represents a stylistic device, which does not affect the metaphorical meaning of PU, as such non-core components do not express the main meaning. [Abdullina, 2007; Martins, et al , 2018]

A good example of this transformation is quoted in the following sentence:

"Owen, in his big shell spectacles, was evidently a red rag to his irritable fellow-countryman"

"Оуэн в своих больших очках в черепаховой оправе явно был для своего"

раздражительного соотечественника что красная тряпка для быка”.

Here the PU “like a red rag to a bull” – “Как красная тряпка для быка, раздражающий, злящий” is used in reduced variant in the form of the core component “red rag”, which enables the reader to recreate the whole original PU. However, in translation the whole form is transferred, thus the author’s transformation is not retained.

Phraseological contamination

Phraseological contamination is a very complex cognitive process of combining two or more PUs.

This type of PU transformation is used in the following sentence:

“... while the ‘General’, who was **a man of their own sort**, nobly swallowed his asparagus on the other side of the window-pane”,

“... когда генерал, который **был одним из них**, с видом аристократа заглатывал спаржу за окном вагона-ресторана”.

The author combines two PU: “he (she, etc.) is not my sort” – “он (она, и т.д.) не в моем вкусе” and PU “all sorts and conditions of men” – “люди всякого рода, самые различные люди” into one PU “a man of their own sort”. The Russian translation preserves the author’s transformation.

Phraseological pun

Phraseological pun is the instance of the occasional use of the PU in its dictionary form but with dual interpretation, i.e. with simultaneous realization of the idiomatic meaning of the whole PU and direct meaning of its components.

This type of transformation was studied in the work of A.Naciscione [Naciscione 2010:91]. The researcher defines phraseological pun as “two-dimensional narration” from the point of meaning, and regards the basic feature of this transformation being the duality. Such a duality, according to the researcher, arises due to the simultaneous dual interpretation of the direct and idiomatic meaning leading to the significant shift in the field of semantic meaning and owing to the disclosure of the essence of the PU figurativeness.

This type of transformation is found in the following sentence:

“The Judge was hobbling along the pavement **like a cat on hot bricks**, to the corner”

“Судья, **как кот по горячим кирпичам**, проковылял по тротуару до угла”

In our opinion the PU “like a cat on hot bricks” – “как кошка на раскаленных кирпичках – не по себе, не в своей тарелке, как на углях, как на иголках” in this case can be interpreted dually: both in idiomatic and direct meaning, because according to the plot the judge – the character of the novel – was walking with a cane along stone pavement during a hot Mexican day, that means literary on hot stones or bricks. This exact PU was studied by L.Zinatullina, who defined the character of the PU, namely adverbial PU, and pointed out that by the translation of the PU in phraseological dictionary the author of the dictionary used two methods: the method of partial calquing and descriptive translation [Zinatullina, 2016]. The translator might have abandoned to use the descriptive translation on purpose and used the phraseological calque in order to retain the phraseological metaphor. Thus, it can be concluded that in this case the author’s transformation has been preserved.

IV. SUMMARY

With the aim to make a conclusion concerning the quality of translation it has to be cleared out whether the abandoning the author’s transformation while translating is a sign of improper translation. In our opinion, the translation where the author’s transformation is not preserved, can not be regarded as the wrong one, as in such cases the translator can not find the exact variant in the phraseological dictionary and is to apply different translation techniques. However, it should be noted, that when the author’s transformations are preserved, the intentions of the author in transferring the certain image are preserved as well. That is why in order to assess the quality of translation one should consider only such cases when the translator did not preserve the author’s transformations.

V. CONCLUSIONS

As it has been stated above, in 16 cases the author’s transformations of PU were not preserved in translation, herein in 10 cases the abandoning of the author’s transformation was insubstantial for the general understanding of the text, but in 6 cases the loss of original meaning was vital. It is necessary to point out, that all these 6 cases contain the most complex types of the author’s transformation, thus proving that the study of translation of PU with author’s transformation should be included to the training of translators of literary works.

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