

4. Тен Э.Г. Контроль понимания иноязычного текста / Э.Г. Тен // Иностранные языки в школе. – 1999. – №4. – С. 23-26.

Тетяна Шиляєва
(Ізмаїл, Україна)

TRANSLATION OF REALIA IN THE WORKS OF L. TOLSTOY AND A. SOLZHENITSYN

The article deals with the main features of realia in the works of Russian literature and ways of their faithful translation into English. The study is based on the literary texts of L.N. Tolstoy («Two Hussars») and A.I. Solzhenitsyn («One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich», «Matryona's Home»). It investigates the main ways of translation of realia and reveals the possible loss of culture-specific information in translation.

The word «realia» is used to name some elements of everyday life, history of a nation that are foreign to the language of another nation or country. I.V. Korunets names such words as units of nationally biased lexicon [3, p. 151]. The word realia comes from medieval Latin, in which it originally meant «the real things», i.e. material things, as opposed to abstract ones. In translation studies the term is used to refer to concepts which are found in a given source culture but not in a given target culture [7, p. 126]. S. Vlahov and S. Florin, the Bulgarian translators, were the first to carry out an in-depth study of realia. They determine realia to be a particular category of the expressive vocabulary, including words and word-combinations naming the objects of life, culture, history of a nation which are unfamiliar to another one. The researchers note that the process of realia translation needs a particular approach because they do not have a corresponding equivalent in other languages as they are bearers of national and historical connotation [2, p. 2].

The penetration of a nation's culturally biased specific notions into other national languages is realized in different historical periods through various channels and in most different conditions including literary texts and their translations.

The task of our investigation is to analyze the use of realia in the works of Russian writers and study the ways of their translation. We singled out several thematic groups of realia in the investigated material and classified them according to the principle suggested by S. Vlahov and S. Florin who note that realia differ in the nature of their subject matter, i.e. close relationship of denotatum with the people, country, tribe or at least a social community on the one hand and the historical period on the other hand, which forms appropriate national (local) and/or historical flavor

[6, p. 123]. This classification includes three basic groups of realia: geographical, ethnographical, social and political ones.

Realia of the geographical group include the names of objects of physical geography: тайга – taiga, степь – steppe, Великий Северный путь – Great Northern Route. Ethnographical realia mean notions dealing with mode of life, folk culture, material culture, customs, religion, spiritual culture, as well as art, folklore and so on. They include objects of the daily life: a) food, drinks and so on: бублики – bублиki, пожарские котлеты – fried cutlets, каша – kasha, сало – salt pork, галушки – Ukrainian dumplings, жижа – soup, баланда – stew, b) establishments of daily life: кабак – inn, трактир – tavern, c) clothes: архалук – tunic, сюртук – jacket, телогрейка – wadded jacket, лапти – rope sandals, ЧТЗ – Chetezes (a sort of galoshes), кацавейка – quilted jacket, чепец – cap, валенки – valenki, кальсоны – wadded trousers, d) dwellings, furniture, tableware: самовар – samovar, горница – room, котёл – soup kettle, рубленая изба – log cabin, курная изба – hovel, барак – barrack room, производственная кухня – zek's canteen, вахта – sentry house, немецкий котелок – German mess-tin, баня – Turkish bath, e) transport: ямщик – sleigh driver, кучер – coachman, фореитор – postilion, энергопоезд – portable generator, тройка – sleigh-and-three.

Realia also describe work activity: a) people of labor: половой – waiter, бригадир – squad leader, нормировщик – rate inspector, десятник – foreman, завстоловой – mess chief, стахановец – Stakhanovite, b) labor organization: плано-производственная часть – planning production department, колхоз – kolkhoz, процентовка – work report, ТЭЦ – power station, растворная – machine shop.

The group of ethnic objects is subdivided into: a) ethnonyms: вятич – Vyatka, b) nicknames: зек – zek, каторжанин – stringy man, шестёрка – helper, батька Усатый – Stalin, c) people's names by their residential places: хлопец – Ukrainian lad, Афремовская помещица – mistress of the Afremovskaya estate, мадьяр – Hungarian, d) units of measurement: аршин – yard, грамм – ounce, килограмм – pound, километр – mile, e) monetary units: копейка – kopeck, полтинник – half a ruble, четвертак – quarter, целковый – ruble, синенькие – five-ruble notes.

Social-political realia are represented by a) administrative and territorial units and residential places: губерния – gubernia, уезд – uyezd, старообрядческая деревня – a settlement of Old Believers, Соцбытгородок – «Social way of life» settlement, Котласская пересылка – Kotlas deportation point, b) bodies of power and authorities: комендатура – commandant's office, рабоче-крестьянская власть – the Soviet Power, император – tsar, опер – security boys, комиссар – komissar, милиция – militiamen, исправник – police captain; c) social positions: дворяне – local gentry, дворовые люди – serfs, интеллигенция – intelligentsia, кулак – kulak, пролетарий – proletarian, d) patriotic and public movements and their representatives: тугенбунд

– Tugenbund, oprichniki – oprichniki, e) organizations, educational and cultural establishments: санчасть – dispensar, культурно-воспитательная часть – Culture and Education Departmen.

Military realia are represented by such groups as: a) subdivisions: Белевский полк – Belevsky Regiment, штабной барак – staff quarters, ГУЛАГ – GULAG, каторжный лагерь – special camp, карцер – cell, b) arms: винтовка Мосина – rifle, c) uniform: уланский мундир – Uhlan uniform, бушлат – coat, гимнастёрка – tunic, венгерка – military tunic, d) servicemen and commanders: гусар – hussar, денщик – officer's servant, поручик – ensign, улан – Uhlan, юнкер – cadet, пехоташка – infantry officer, полковой командир – regiment commander, ротмистр – captain, дневальный – barrack orderlies, старший нарядчик – senior roster guard, кавторанг – naval captain, начкар – head guard.

So we see there are various examples of thematic groups of realia used in the works of L.N. Tolstoy and A.I. Solzhenitsyn. Ethnographical realia prevail in both works which reflect mostly Russian daily life connected with the period of Russian Empire (the 19th century) and the USSR (postwar period).

We investigated the ways of translation of realia according to the classification by S. Florin and S. Vlahov. In case of realia we should talk about finding semantic and stylistic equivalent or realia renaming rather than translation itself.

It is clear that to communicate the definition of the objects used in the source language and the images connected with them, it is necessary to have definite awareness of the reality described in the source text. In the theory of translation such awareness is called «background knowledge» which is a complex of the ideas about the real background of the life in the country of the source language. Background lexicon is the words or expressions bearing some additional meaning and definite semantic and stylistic flavor, which affect the main meaning and are known to all the people belonging to some peculiar language group [2, p. 93].

Transcription or transliteration is a mechanical transmission of realia from the source language into the target one by means of graphical signs with maximum approximation to the original phonetic form: гусар – hussar, бублики – bubliki, пляска – plyaska, зек – zek, oprichniki – oprichniki, интеллигенция – intelligentsia, комиссар – komissar, кулак – kulak.

Translation as a way of rendering realia into the target language is usually applied in the cases when transcription is impossible or irrelevant. Introduction of realia is the most suitable after transcription way of preserving the content and coloring of the translated realia with the help of creating a new word or word-combination in order to get a similar effect. Such new words can be calques or semi-calques. Calque (word-for-word translation) is a special type of loan when structural and semantic language models are rendered element by element with the help of the target language material means: Великий Северный путь – Great Northern Route, немецкий котелок –

German mess-tin, красноармеец – Red Army man, Соцбытгородок – Socialist Way of Life settlement, комполк – regimental commander. Semi-calque are partial borrowings, new words or set expressions, which consist both from the native material and the material of the foreign word: валдайские колокольчики – Valdaï carriagebells, стахановец – Stakhanovite, Котласская пересылка – Kotlas deportation point, Белевский полк – Belevsky Regiment, уланский мундир – Uhlan uniform, владимирский крест – Vladimir Cross.

Semantic transformation is conditionally a new word or word-combination created by the translator that permits to convey the semantic content of realia. The etymological connection with the original word distinguishes it from calque. This way of translation is the rarest one because realia are usually created by folk (тройка – sleigh-and-three).

Approximate translation is applied to convey the subjective content of realia, however, the coloring is almost always lost because the expected connotative equivalent is substituted by the neutral style, i.e. by a word or combination with a zero connotations. There are some examples: a) principle of substitution permits to convey the meaning of realia by the unit with a wider meaning, using generalization (архалук (род короткого кафтана) – tunic, ассигнации – notes, половой – waiter, оршад (прохладительный напиток, бытовавший до конца XIX века) – refreshment, чепец – cap, горница – room, рабоче-крестьянская власть – the Soviet power, дворянские выборы – elections of representatives, каторжный лагерь – special camp, бушлат – coat, гимнастёрка – tunic, венгерка – military tunic, карцер – cell); b) functional analogue is an element of the final statement which has a similar meaning in the language of the target audience. The substituted element is said to arouse a similar reaction of the receiving culture reader to the one aroused by the prototext on the source culture reader: помещица – mistress, коридорный – page boy, чиновник – clerk, юнкер – cadet, кабак – inn, аршин – yard, трактир – tavern, рубленая изба – log cabin, баланда – stew, биток – broiled steak, жижа – soup, сюртук – jacket, калетовская свеча (стеариновые свечи, приготовлявшиеся некогда фабрикой Калета) – stearin candle, десятник – foreman, килограмм – pound, километр – mile, барышня – lady, барин – lord, завстоловой – mess chief, шестёрка – helper, c) description or explication as the way of approximate translation is usually used in the cases when it is the only possible way: the notion which cannot be conveyed through transcription is merely explained. It should be mentioned that the approximate translation is not adequate. It does not convey the content of the appropriate unit and is usually longer than the source language unit: денщик – officer's servant, полтинник – half a ruble, исправник – police captain, кацавейка – quilted jacket, шипучки – fruit drinks, лампадка – icon lamp, сало – salt pork, хлопец – Ukrainian lad, процентовка – work report, самосад – home-grown tobacco.

The term «contextual translation» is usually contrasted to the dictionary translation pointing in such a way to correspondence which the word can have in the context contrary to the one given in the dictionary. This option is followed when the translator thinks that the context is the dominating factor in the given message. The context becomes the main factor in translation. It is a substitution of the dictionary correspondence into a contextual one which is logically connected with it: производственная кухня – zek's canteen, батька Усатый – Old Whiskers – Stalin.

Realia as the specific lexical units present one of the most popular means used in the belles-lettres text for rendering local and temporal coloring. They are rendered in the target language in various ways (transcription/transliteration, introduction of realia, approximate and contextual translation). The choice of the way of translation is defined by a number of factors (text's genre, significance of realia in the given context, their specific nature, correlation between the source and target languages, readership for which the translation is aimed). Unfortunately in the process of rendering realia there may be possible loss of culture-specific information in translation. To convey the colouring of realia is the most difficult task for any translator.

Література:

1. Бархударов Л.С. Язык и перевод / Л.С. Бархударов. – М.: Международные отношения, 1975. – 235 с.
2. Влахов С. Непереводимое в переводе. Реалии. «Министерство Перевода». Сборник статей, 1969 / С. Влахов, С. Флорин. – М.: Советский писатель, 1970. – 320 с.
3. Корунець І.В. Теорія і практика перекладу (аспектний переклад): підручник / І.В. Корунець. – Вінниця: Нова Книга, 2003. – 448 с.
4. Солженицын А.И. Рассказы / А.И. Солженицын. – М.: Современник, 1989. – 302 с.
5. Толстой Л.Н. Повести и рассказы / Л.Н. Толстой. – М., 1984. – 256 с.
6. Florin, Sider 1993. Realia in translation. In: Zlateva, Palma (ed.) Translation as Social Action. Russian and Bulgarian Perspectives. – London: Routledge. – P. 122-128.
7. Leppihalme, Ritva 2011: Realia. In: Yves Gambier and Luc van Doorslaer (ed.): Handbook of Translation Studies, John Benjamins. – Amsterdam. – P. 126-130.
8. Solzhenitsyn A.I. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich (translated by Ralph Parker). Carl and IlseWhisner, United States Peace Corps Volunteers. – March, 2011.
9. Tolstoy L.N. Stories / L.N. Tolstoy. – Moscow: Raduga Publishers, 1983. – 376 p.