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STRATEGIES OF ENGLISH-UKRAINIAN IDIOM TRANSLATION IN THE CARTOON “THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS”

СТРАТЕГІЇ ПЕРЕКЛАДУ ІДИОМ З АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ НА УКРАЇНСЬКУ МОВУ В МУЛЬТФІЛЬМІ «СЕКРЕТИ ДОМАШНІХ ТВАРИН»

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Idioms are expressions whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of the individual words they contain. They often carry cultural connotations and nuances that are unique to a language or a community. Idiomatic translation research aims to preserve the meaning, tone, and intent of the original idiom in the source language (SL) while rendering it comprehensible and culturally appropriate in the target language (TL). Analyzing and translating idiomatic expressions challenges translators to think creatively and critically about language usage. It sharpens their linguistic skills and deepens their understanding of the intricacies of language. Idiomatic translation research contributes to the enrichment of literary and linguistic studies by exploring the nuances and complexities of idiomatic expressions [1].

Translating idiomatic expressions has long been recognised as a complex decision-making endeavour for translators, demanding significant experience and creative aptitude. Despite the expertise of the translators, who ideally possess a deep understanding of the target language and its cultural nuances, they cannot rival the intuitive grasp of native speakers in determining the appropriate usage of idioms within specific textual contexts. Translating idiomatic expressions poses several challenges, which are outlined in M. Baker’s book “In Other Words”:

1. Lack of Equivalents: Some idioms or fixed expressions in the source language may have no direct equivalent in the target language. This can make it difficult for translators to convey the same meaning and tone effectively, leading to the potential loss of nuance or cultural context.

2. **Divergent Contextual Usage:** Even if there is a similar expression in the target language, its context of use may differ. The translated expression might not capture the exact connotations or pragmatic implications of the original idiom. This can result in a loss of the intended meaning or impact of the expression in the target language.

3. **Literal and Figurative Usage:** Idioms can be used in both their literal and figurative senses simultaneously in the source text. Translating such expressions requires careful consideration to ensure that both layers of meaning are conveyed accurately in the target language.

4. **Differences in Conventions and Frequency:** The usage of idioms in written discourse, as well as their frequency of use, may vary between the source and target languages. Translators need to be mindful of these differences to ensure that the translated text remains natural and appropriate for its intended audience.

Throughout their academic pursuits and subsequent professional experiences, translators typically develop strategies and solutions, consciously or instinctively, for effectively translating idiomatic expressions [3; 4; 5].

M. Baker suggests the following strategies for idiom translation, some of them exemplified in English-Ukrainian translation on the example of the English cartoon “The Secret Life of Pets”:

- Using an idiom of similar meaning and form. It means using an idiom in the target language, which has approximately the same meaning as the source language idiom, and it contains equivalent lexical items (e.g. Time is money – Час це гроші). However, such ideal matches have not been found in the English-Ukrainian translation in the cartoon “The Secret Life of Pets”.

- Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. This strategy is based on the possibility to find an idiom in the target language with a similar meaning to that of the source idiom or expression, but containing different lexical items. For example:

1) SL “*Come on, slowpokes!*”

TL “*Та швидко, черепахи!*”

The meaning of the English lexical item “*slowpokes*” is walking or doing something too slowly. In Ukrainian culture, the appropriate equivalent for these people is “повільні, як черепахи”. This comparison with turtles is a near equivalent in this communicative situation.

2) ST “Whew, that *was a close one!* Aw, nuts!”

TT “Фух! *Мало в халепу не вскочив!* А нехай йому...”

The English idiom “to be a close one” is used when something bad almost happens, but you manage to avoid it [2]. Ukrainian equivalent “Мало в халепу не вскочив” has similar meaning and suits best in this communicative situation.

• Translation by paraphrase. According to Baker, this can be considered the most common way of translating idioms when it is inappropriate to use idiomatic expressions in the target text because of differences in stylistic preferences or when no match can be found in the target language [3, p. 80]. For example,

3) SL ***“Play it cool”***

TL ***“Вгамуйся”***

The English idiom “play it cool” means to behave in a calm, controlled way, often intentionally appearing not to be interested in the thing that you very much want to get [2]. Ukrainian variant of the translation suggests only stylistically marked lexical item “вгамуйся” instead of an idiom.

Gabriella Kovacs outlines the “strategy of compensation” [3, p. 96], which was briefly discussed by Mona Baker, i.e. “this means that one may either omit or play down a feature such as an idiomaticity at the point where it occurs in the source text and introduce it elsewhere in the target text” [1, p. 78]. Baker asserts that incorporating the familiar phraseology of the target language, encompassing its inherent fixed and semi-fixed expressions, can significantly impact the readability of a translation by achieving the appropriate level of idiomaticity. Successfully addressing these concerns implies that the resulting target text will appear less ‘foreign’ to its readership.

4) SL ***“They say everyone's going to Brooklyn these days. Making a real comeback.”***

TL ***“Зараз, кого не спитай, – всі у Бруклін збираються! Мов у старі добрі часи!”***

The English phrase “make a real comeback” in the cartoon was successfully translated into the Ukrainian idiom “Мов у старі добрі часи” which means you want to come back treasured memories and events that happened in the past. This idiom is the best translation match for the English phrase and appeals to the target audience.

The various idiom translating solutions and strategies chosen by the literary translator while translating the cartoon “The Secret Life of Pets” into Ukrainian have been examined. As a result of this analysis, we can state that the novel is an eligible source for the idiom translation process which can be used as an authentic teaching material. In the English-Ukrainian translation of the cartoon “The Secret Life of Pets”, we have found out that the prevailing strategy of rendering the idioms is using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Studying idiomatic expressions helps researchers gain insights into the cultural beliefs, values, and traditions of a community. Translating idioms accurately requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures, making idiomatic translation research essential for fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

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