Proper Names in the Process of Translation: in Terms of English and Russian Languages

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Abstract: : *The following article covers the area of translation called **proper names**. Correct translation of proper names always defines the rest of the procedure. In this article we used different sources and were mostly focused on the work by D.I Ermolovich. According to the theories he stated in the book we tried to make examples and practices. We compared the result of translation with the original version to identify the changes in forms as well as in the context.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Translation of proper names is one of the difficult terms of translation that all translators come across with. One common question that addresses the notion "proper names" in any language is whether they should be translated or not. Most amateur translators may consider that proper names are not translated while experts do various researches which can be observed when comparing the translated text with the source text (ST). Thus to understand that a noun is a proper name and be able to make a translation in high quality, the criteria for translation of proper nouns should be mastered.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

First of all, it is advised to learn that in general proper names cobeer several categories such as names of people, animals (zoonyms), geographical places (toponyms), documents, transport, companies, zodiac signs, for example: *Valikhan, Azam, Nilufar, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Afrosiyob (train), Leo, Virgo, Aries, Red book,* and etc.

Although different dictionaries give nearly the same definition of the word "proper name" we decided to use the one given in the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English for advanced learners (section P): a proper noun is a noun such as "James", "New York" or "China" that is the name of one particular thing and written with a capital letter.

Now we will look at the basic ways of transferring proper from a source language to target one:

- **Transcription** – trying to make possible approach to the source word orally instead of written version by using the letters of the target language. Example*: Steve – Стив, Facebook – Фейсбук, Michael – Майкл, Microsoft – Майкрософт, New York Times – Нью Йорк Таймс.*

- **Transliteration** – transferring the word from Latin letters to Cyrillic letters. Example: *Tashkent – Ташкент, basketball – баскетбол, Burj Khalifa – Бурж Халифа, Dubai – Дубай, Samsung – Самсунг,*

- **Calque** – a word which is borrowed from another language and translated word by word. Example: *The Federal Bureau of Investigation (The FBI) – Федеральная Буро Расследований (ФБР), Royal Family – Королевская семья,Your (Royal) Highness – Ваше (королевское) высочества, European Union – Евро Союз, The United States of America – Соединенные Штаты Америки.*

- **Semi calque -** words half of which is adopted from the source language while another half is from the target one. Example: *Skyscraper – Небоскрёб, Bloody Merry – Кровавая Мэрри,Youth parliament – Парламент молодёжи, Grant Canyon – Великий Каньон, the Caiman Islands – Острова Кайман, the European parliament – Европейский парламент.*

- **Creating a neologism** – the method that is used while creating a new proper name when there is not an equivalent in the target language or when the translator has a strong desire to highlight a particular character. Example: *Piglet (поросёнок) – Пятачок, Boss baby – Босс молокосос, Бирон – Von Buhren, Thomas a Kempis – Фома Каспийский, Snow White – Белоснежка, Cinderella – Золушка.*

3. DISCUSSION

There have been different researches done by different linguists such *as A.V Superanskiy, A.A Reformatorskiy, D.I Ermolovich, O.I Fonyakova, V.D Bondalev* and we will make an attempt to look through the work by some of these scientists and contrast to come to the right conclusion about translating proper names.

D.I Ermolovich explained how to translate each type of proper names such as surnames, names, of transport, companies, organizations and the arts which we will discuss separately.

- **Toponyms or geographical names** – according to D.I Ermolovich translators use practical transcription while translating toponyms if it belongs to the source language, but if it does not, translators have to be careful and use the transcription system of the language from which the toponyms come from. Example: *Rhenland Pfalz* in German

language sounds as *Rhineland Palatine* in English language, in the case of translating it into Russian, we may end up with *Райнланд Полотине* which may lead readers to confusion so that is the reason why the basic German form is obliged to be used. Rheinland Pfalz – Рейнланд Пфальц. Other examples: *Warszaw – Warsaw – Варшава (not Воршов), Köln – Cologne – Кёльн (not Колоне), München – Munich – Мюнхен (not Мюних), Nürnberg – Nuremberg – Нюрнберг (not Нюремберг). Also toponyms are often preceded by common nouns describing what the toponym is.* In this case the equivalent for the common noun is found in Russian language. Example: *Isle of Man – Остров Мэн, the Amudarya river – река Амударья, the lake Huran – озеро Гуран, the Mediterranean sea – Средиземное море, Mount Everest – Гора Эверест and etc.*

Some professionals suggest using geographical dictionaries or mini maps to give the proper context. But not all toponyms can be found on maps especially municipal toponyms such as square, building, house street and since the solution the solution to the problem has not been found, every translator tries to give individual transformation, for example I am more focused on translating them than transcribing: *Independence square – Площадь Независимости, Tashkent city - Ташкент сити.* Though transcribing dominates over all the methods, for instance: *Times Square – Таймс сквер, Wall Street - Уалл стрит.*

• **Zoonyms or names of animals –** these are names that are given to animals, they are nicknames in other words. Such names are mostly given to pets like cats, dogs, rats, birds etc or animals that are famous in society (animals in zoos, circus and so on). There are two classes of zoonyms: **general** and **individual**. General zoonyms include names that refer to animal species. Example*: Pluto, Teddy, Max, Bella (for dogs), Annabelle, Clarabelle, Betta (for cows), Leo, Jack, Olive, Simba (for cats), Rio, Champ, Trigger (for horses)* can be translated as they are used for all members of a specific species and they are certain to have equivalents in other languages (we have taken the terms in Russian language): *Рекс, Жучка, Барбос, Граф (for dogs), Мурка, Белка, Марта, Манька (for cows), Маруся, Соня, Маркиза (for cats), Гром, Буцефал, Барон (for horses).* But individual zoonyms refer to a particular pet or animal that is why it is better to use transcription or transliteration when we work on individual animals' nicknames. Example: *Рекс – Rex, Симба – Simba, Тимон – Timon and etc.* When we work on translating zoonyms in folklore or tales, we should focus on finding equivalents. Examples: *Коза дереза - Nanny goat, Серый волк – Big wolf* etc. The main problem is that we do not have any dictionaries which could translate folklore characters and contrast two characters in two different languages, that is why when a translator can not find the basic equivalent, s/he can translate the epithet with the help of regular and productive syntaxic module which in English language has the structure of participle II. Example: *Курочка ряба – The Speckled Hen, Конёк горбунок – The little Humpacked Horse,* or nouns in plural form*: Косой зайчик – Squint Eyes, Hare the long Ears,* or

with adjectives*: Мишка косолапый – Clumsy Bear, Муравушка хвастунишка – The Braggart ant.* Translators have to be careful while making such words in the foreign language as it may change the basic meaning if translators are not sure about it, they had better not translate the epithet

• **Astrononyms –** astrononyms are terms so they have to be translated according to astronomical terminology. It should be highlighted that most of the astrononyms were adopted from antique mythology and in most cases names in Russian and English coincide. Example: *Mars – Марс, Jupiter – Юпитер, Apollo – Аполлон.* It is more difficult to translate them from Russian into English especially when we use transliteration or translation methods. Example: the asteroid *Географ* may be mistranslated as *Geographer* which means someone who works in the sphere of geography that asteroid has a particular English name which sounds like Geographos. According to D.I Ermolovich, it is useful for translators to know zodiac signs. They all have two versions, one in English and another in Latin.

Names of zodiac signs

Russian names	English names originated from Latin	Real English names
Близнецы	Gemini	The Twins
Весы	Libra	The Balance
Водолей	Aquarius	The Water Bearer
Дева	Virgo	The Virgin
Козерог	Capricorn	The Goat
Лев	Leo	The Lion
Овен	Aries	The Ram
Рак	Cancer	The Crab
Рыбы	Pisces	The Fishes
Скорпион	Scorpius, Scorpio	The Scorpion
Стрелец	Sagittarius	The Archer
Телец	Taurus	The Bull

It is stated by experts that translation of astrononyms requires high level of quality so in the case of any doubt, it is advised to address special dictionaries or encyclopedias.

• **Names of ships, spaceships and machines –** the established practice shows that proper names of such typology should be transcribed instead of finding the same meaning in the target language, for example the name of theship called *Queen Elizabeth* sounds like *Куин Элизабет*

(not Королева Елизавета) in Russian language. The same thing with spaceships and machines: Voyage – Вояджер, Vostok – Восток, Ураган – Uragan (not Hurricane) and etc.

• **Names of companies and organizations –** Names of companies are transcribed according to common requirements and the names translated into Russian language should be in quotation marks, for example: *General motors – "Дженерал моторс".* In the process of translating company names orthographical signs are remained *(except for apostrophes).* Example: *Mc Donald's – Макдоналдс, Harrod's –Харродс and etc*

• **Names of literary works –** Compositions of English literature are translated into Russian language with the help of translation, but if the composition has been translated before translators had better use the translated version so that it will be understandable for readers because some composition names may not have been translated literally like the novel by P.H Johnson called "*The good listener"* was translated into Russian language as *"Особый дар"* or the comedy *"Some Like it Hot"* is famous as *"В джазе только девушки"* in Russian. That is the main reason why translators should use the results of the previous translation or at last discussion unless the translator thinks there is no serious mistake that need correction.

4. CONCULUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The problem related to translation of proper names has been exiting as long as languages and cross cultural communication. The problem will continue growingif the system and method of proper name translation are not learned properly. In the article we tried to show how the reasons of wrong translation and the ways of solving them. Each of the terms of proper name translation has to be taken into consideration in order to get the expected result and accomplish the task of translators effectively.

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