THE PECULIARITIES OF RENDERING ENGLISH COLOUR NAMES IN UKRAINIAN TRANSLATION

Summary. The article has been devoted to the description of colour names in the aspect of their functioning in belles-lettres style and their adequate rendering in artistic translation from English into Ukrainian. Nominations of colour have been investigated as linguistic units with semantic sustainability, high adaptiveness, and variability depending on the author’s cultural background and experience. Colour names have been studied as linguistic and cultural symbols, charged by certain mentality and expressiveness. The topic of the research is up-to-date in the paradigm of the functional-communicative approach to translation. In the focus of the research there are various types of colour names and the peculiarities of rendering English colour names in Ukrainian translation. The research is done on the basis of the long short stories Dandelion Wine’ by Ray Bradbury and ‘The Great Gatsby’ by Francis Scott Fitzgerald. The colour names’ semantics is realized in belles-lettres texts on linguistic, extralinguistic and cultural levels. It has been proved that colour names often have symbolic meaning in artistic texts. Being associated with the author’s mentality and world outlook, symbols are relevant for artistic translation in general. Thus, it has been resumed that adequate rendering of colour names is essential for faithful translation. To preserve stylistic specificity of the source text, in particular in the aspect of re-dering the semantics of colour names, translators employ proper translation operations according to the chosen translation strategy of the communicatively relevant translation. Translation transformations are the most widely distributed among other operations at work. The perspective is seen in further investigation of colour names on the different linguistic material and in other Indo-European languages.

Key words: colour names, symbolism, translation operations, translation transformations.

Problem-setting and groundings for its urgency. The issues of colour nomination and colour artistic symbolism have been lately in the focus of the research works by H.V. Aliyeva [1], N.B. Bakhilina [2], D.N. Borysova [3], A.P. Vasylyevych [4], and Yu.V. Nomsanska [5].

Possible challenges of rendering colour names consist in the absence of the full translation correspondences for particular shades of meaning of certain colour names in the target language on one side, and simultaneously in the acquisition of the symbolic semantic charge in the context of a particular belles-lettres text.

The urgency of the article is conditioned by the necessity of the systematization of translation tactics and techniques, employed in rendering English colour names in Ukrainian artistic translation.

Achromatic colour names, primary, secondary and tertiary colour names functioning in the selected English works of art and their Ukrainian translation correspondences have served as the object of the research. The peculiarities of rendering English colour names in Ukrainian translation in the aspect of the preservatio of their symbolic meaning have formed the subject of the research.

Recent research analysis. The history of the colour names research dates back to the works of such well-known scholars as A. Vezbytska [6], B. Berlin [7] and E. Rosch [8]. Unlike the previous works, dedicated to the issues of fundamentals of visual perception of colour and its proper nomination [6], university and evolution of colour terms [7] and mental codes for colour categories [8].

The novelty of our research consists in the focus upon the translator’s artistic interpretation of colour symbolism in translating belles-lettres works from English into Ukrainian.

The objective and tasks. The objective of the research is to perform the comparative translation analysis of achromatic, primary, secondary and tertiary colour nominations, as well as to define the most appropriate translation tactics and techniques of their adequate rendering in Ukrainian artistic translation in the paradigm of the functional communicative approach. The tasks are as follows:

1) to systematize the existing approaches to the understanding and classification of colour names;
2) to define the distinctive features of colour terms in general;
3) to perform the overall linguistic analysis of English colour nominations on the basis of the long short stories ‘Dandelion Wine’ by Ray Bradbury [9] and ‘The Great Gatsby’ by Francis Scott Fitzgerald [10];
4) to determine the most appropriate translation tactics and techniques of rendering colour names in Ukrainian translations by V. Mytrofanova [11] and M. Pichevskyi [12].

The sampling for the research was formed on the basis of the works of art ‘Dandelion Wine’ by Ray Bradbury and ‘The Great Gatsby’ by Francis Scott Fitzgerald and their Ukrainian translations by V. Mytrofanova and M. Pichevskyi.

The methodology of the research included the methods of sampling, comparative and translation analysis, as well as some elements of the quantitative method.

The findings of the research. Colour names are viewed in the research as linguistic and cultural signs employed not only to nominate and differentiate colours, but also to create artistic symbols.

Colour names are speech products, resulting from colour nomination. They may be represented by different linguistic units (from morphemes to supraphrasal unites), but the common semantic feature is direct or associative connection with the objects of reality as carriers of certain colours. On the basis of the selected Ukrainian translations under analysis there have been singled out the primary and secondary colours and shades of red, black and white, and their peculiarities.

It has been concluded that colour names’ semantics is realized both on linguistic, extralinguistic and cultural levels of belles-lettres texts. Colour names are certain codes, symbolizing notions, images or ideas.
Symbols are especially relevant for translation as they are interwoven with the author’s world view. Translators employ translation transformations to preserve stylistic specificity of the source text.

Translation transformations form the basis of all the translation devices, thus allowing the translator to reder the main idea with certain alterations in both semantic and formal aspects.

The sampling of the research consisted of 117 English colour names and 117 Ukrainian translation correspondences.

It’s worth remarking that the sampling contained all the eleven lexemes denoting colour in English: ‘red’, ‘orange’, ‘yellow’, ‘green’, ‘blue’, ‘velvet’, ‘white’, ‘grey’, ‘black’, ‘pink’, and ‘brown’.

The most numerous there have proved to be lexeme ‘green’ (36 examples). Correspondingly there have been singled out 35 examples of the Ukrainian equivalent ‘зелений’.

Thus, the distinctive feature of the colour world picture in the long short stories ‘Dandelion Wine’ by Ray Bradbury and ‘The Great Gatsby’ by Francis Scott Fitzgerald and their Ukrainian translations ‘Кулібабове вино’ by V. Mytrofanova and ‘Великий Гетсбі’ by M. Pichevskyi there proved to be the wide distribution of all the known eleven colour names.

The names of the shades of colour are more numerous in Ukrainian translations than in the source English texts. The translators’ personalities and their colour perception and background knowledge also influenced the choice of translation correspondences and possible allusions.

In the structural aspect there are used both simple and composite colour names: 1) composite colour terms with the intensity of colour: ‘gold-bright’, ‘bright yellow’, ‘dark-green’ (Ukrainian translation: «золотистий», «ясна жовтіна», «темно-зелений»); 2) composite colour terms combining stems of different simple colours names: ‘brown-yellow’ (Ukrainian translation: «коричнево-жовтий»), ‘blue-white’ (Ukrainian translation: «голубого-білий»), ‘red velvet’ (Ukrainian translation: «червонокласикової»), ‘red purple’ (Ukrainian translation: «червоновистий»), ‘yellow-dark’ (Ukrainian translation: «руда»); 3) composite colour terms combining stems of colour names with the stems of emotive and evaluative connotation, mostly rendered by descriptive translation: ‘red-fire, now blue-fire, now white-fire faces’ (Ukrainian translation: «руда», «червоний», «красний»), but at the same time adhering both to light and dark shades of colour. In transferred meaning ‘grey’ corresponds to ‘plain’, ‘middle-of-the-road’. In Ukrainian linguistic and mental culture ‘grey’ is close to ‘aging’, ‘старшений колір волосся’ and at the time may mean ‘dull’, ‘глюмний’. Thus it may be translated as ‘нудний’, ‘похмурий’. This may be illustrated by the following example: ‘And Douglas and Charlie and Tom and all the boys and girls on the block saw the gray glove waving, and dropped: from trees and left skip ropes in white snakes on lawns, to run and sit in the green plush seats, and there was no charge’. The corresponding Ukrainian translation: «І, побачивши, як він закликало махраня рукою в сірі рукавички і Дуглас, і Чарлі, і Том, і всі хвилясті та дівчатка з цілого квартирного поскупивсяся з дерев, покидаючи на траву білі змії скаканок, а тоді чимдуби побігли до травями її повсюдя на зелені плющові сидіннях і від тсювів безплатно».

‘White’ often symbolizes ‘purity’, ‘innocence’, ‘modesty’, ‘joy’, ‘prudence’. It is also the colour of wedding in English culture. In Ukrainian all these associations are preserved.

‘Red’ has two Ukrainian correspondences depending on the context, ‘червоний’ and ‘рудий’.

‘Red’ may be translated into Ukrainian like ‘червоний’, ‘красний’, ‘рудиний’, ‘рудий’ and even ‘мідний’ which corresponds to another English word ‘copper’. English text: ‘Also red rhubarb, cream of tartar, white sugar, white of eggs, spring water and clover buds with the strength of the good earth in them’. Ukrainian translation: «А ще червоний ревінь, вининий камінь, білий цукор, яєчний білок, джерельна вода, пуп’янки виносниці – і в них добря сила землі».

‘Green’ in English symbolizes ‘freshness’, ‘youth’, ‘harmony’, ‘health’, but at the same time ‘lack of experience’. In Ukrainian the translation correspondence ‘зелений’ also means ‘experienced’, ‘young’. Similar in meaning to ‘green’ is ‘вердант’, a loan word from French, phonetically and morphologically adapted, widely used to denoted ‘an inexperienced person’. English text: ‘Soon, in the morning avenues below, two old women would glide their electric Green Machine, waving at all the dogs.’ Ukrainian translation: «І, побачивши, що Том просто сидить на дерев’яній підлозі і не витримуючи теплі руки, протиснувшись обличчям до протоміткітної сітки, так що зрівнало на кінку його носа відбилися маленьки тексти квадратиками».

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'gold' denotes 'made of gold' or 'the best'. Colour name 'golden' denotes 'the colour of gold and its shades'. In transferred meanings 'golden' is more common than 'gold'. In Ukrainian it is translated as 'золотий' or 'бліскучо-жовтий'. It corresponds to such Ukrainian adjectives as 'цінний' ('precious', 'valuable'), 'дорогий' ('dear', 'expensive', 'costly') and 'шисливий' ('happy').

English text: 'Even Grandma, repeating and repeating the fine and golden words, even as they were said now in this moment when the flowers were dropped into the press, as they would be repeated every winter for all the white winters in time.' Ukrainian translation: «Навіть бабуся знов і знов повторюватиме ці прекрасні, золоті або срібні слова, так само, як їх сказано щойно, коли квіти висипали в прес, так само, як їх буде повторювано кожної зими, кожної білої зими ще багато років по тому».

Ukrainian «азуровий» and «бірюзовий». English text: 'Now discovering this rare time-piece, this clock gold-bright and guaranteed to run threescore and ten, left under a tree and found while wrestling.' Ukrainian translation: «Тільки тепер, зчепившись із Томом, знайшов i відкрив цей золочений годинник з гарантією безупинного ходу років на сімдесят».

'Blue' has strong associations with 'the colour of the sky and water', but it may also mean 'depressed' or 'depressing', 'gloomy'. In Ukrainian it is translated as «блакитний». Such English colour terms as 'azure' and 'turbquoise' correspond to Ukrainian «азуровий» and «бірюзовий».

Ukrainian translation: «Подруги показала блакитний конверт, якій сей залишила за собою принесену мілкого снігу відшукувану квіткою або буковим листям блакитного яка на її сівчині».

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