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PECULIARITIES OF TRANSLATION OF ONOMASTIC VOCABULARY FROM UKRAINIAN INTO ENGLISH

Summary. The article explores the challenges and strategies involved in translating onomastic vocabulary from Ukrainian into English, using Taras Prokhasko's *"The UnSimple"* and its English translation by Uilleam Blacker as the main research material. Onomastic vocabulary, including names, titles, and toponyms, often carries cultural and historical significance, making its accurate translation particularly complex. The study defines translation transformations as deliberate modifications applied to source texts to ensure a meaningful and coherent rendering in the target language. These transformations are categorized into lexical, grammatical, and complex types, with techniques such as transcoding, calque, modulation, transposition, generalization, and concretization playing a crucial role.

The research highlights that transcoding is the most commonly used technique for translating proper nouns and geographical names. However, it is often supplemented or replaced by other methods to preserve contextual and cultural nuances. For example, some names may require explanatory additions or modifications to adapt to the target language's grammar and stylistic norms. The study also illustrates the translator's need for flexibility when dealing with unique challenges, such as preserving wordplay or etymological connections.

By analysing specific examples from *"The UnSimple"*, the article demonstrates how various translation strategies can convey the author's style, maintain the cultural essence, and address the linguistic differences between Ukrainian and English. This analysis provides a foundation for understanding the complexities of translating specialized vocabulary and serves as a valuable resource for teaching future translation professionals.

The findings suggest that future research could involve larger bilingual corpora to identify broader trends in translating specialized vocabulary and explore how translation decisions affect target audiences. Such studies would deepen the understanding of effective strategies for maintaining both meaning and cultural authenticity in translation.

Key words: translation transformations, translation equivalence, onomastic vocabulary, proper names, cultural adaptation.

Formulation of a research problem. Translation from Ukrainian into English poses unique challenges, particularly when dealing with onomastic vocabulary (names, titles, toponyms). These elements often carry cultural, historical, or contextual significance, making their accurate and meaningful rendering into English a complex task. Translators must navigate differences in linguistic structure, cultural norms, and target audience expectations. To address these challenges, various translation transformations are employed, these techniques help preserve the meaning, style, and cultural essence of the source text while ensuring its comprehensibility and relevance in the target language. Understanding and effectively applying these transformations is crucial for achieving a successful translation that balances fidelity to the original and accessibility for the reader.

Related research. Research on the translation process and the classification of translation transformations has been extensively developed by both foreign and Ukrainian linguists. N. Chomsky and E. Nida laid the foundation for studying translation as a process, focusing on the concept of equivalence and its pivotal role in preserving meaning between source and target texts. J. P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet [1] introduced a detailed classification of translation transformations, which included strategies like borrowing, calque, and modulation. This classification was further refined and expanded by P. Newmark, who integrated more nuanced distinctions tailored to practical translation needs [2]. In Ukrainian linguistics, scholars such as V. Karaban [3], V. Koptilov [4] and I. Korunets [5] have made significant contributions to the study of translation transformations. They proposed classification models that are widely applied in analysing translations between English and Ukrainian, offering insights into the challenges and strategies in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural adaptation.

The aim of the article is to explore the peculiarities of the translation process from Ukrainian into English, specifically on material dealing with onomastic vocabulary. It is expected to have an outlined notion of the term "translation transformations", provide opinions of different specialists in the field on their classification and explain the peculiarity of the translation of onomastic vocabulary. This study intends to show the variety of ways of translating specialized vocabulary using different translation techniques and showing the process on specific fragments selected from the original and processed texts. This analysis can be used later as demonstrative material for teaching future professionals of the field. Furthermore, it gives a perspective on the question of assessing different translation strategies according to their effectiveness in transferring the original meaning into the target language, as well as their role in preserving the features of the author's original writing style.

The research material for this study is based on the analysis of *"The UnSimple"*, a novel by the Ukrainian author Taras

Prokhasko [6], and its English translation performed by Uilleam Blacker [7]. This work offers a perspective on linguistic and cultural nuances, providing an opportunity to analyse the translation strategies employed to convey the original's stylistic features, author's vocabulary and narrative tone. The bilingual nature of the texts allows for a comparative exploration of the similarities and differences between the Ukrainian source and the English target languages, highlighting the challenges and solutions in rendering Taras Prokhasko's distinctive prose.

Presentation of the main research material. Translation is commonly defined as the process of rendering the original text using the linguistic and stylistic means of another language while preserving its meaning, style, and communicative intent. Translation usually requires not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of the cultural and contextual subtleties of both the source and target languages.

Different approaches to translation reflect the diverse priorities and philosophies of linguists and translators. Some emphasize adapting the text to the target language as much as possible, ensuring fluency and cultural relatedness for the audience. This method prioritizes accessibility and naturalness in the translated text. Others consider important preserving the original's uniqueness, striving to maintain the cultural and stylistic elements even at the expense of some degree of fluency. This approach seeks to provide readers with an experience closely aligned with the source text's authenticity and atmosphere.

Due to the differences between languages, the appearance of a certain changes, known as translation transformations, is inevitable. The broad definition of the term "translation transformation" is a change in form, appearance, functions and essential properties of the language unit, which can be located on any structural level of the translated material. These are deliberate modifications applied to the source text to achieve a meaningful and coherent translation.

Transformations can be classified based on their functional means, focusing on how they alter the linguistic structure, or according to the result, which addresses the specific changes introduced into the target text. These include shifts in grammatical structure, lexical substitutions, and stylistic adaptations, all of which are essential for balancing fidelity and comprehensibility in translation.

J.-P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet identify two primary translation strategies: *direct translation* and *oblique translation*, each encompassing specific translation procedures. Direct translation involves three methods: *borrowing*, where a word from the source language is directly transferred into the target language; *calque*, which involves "borrowing" an expression from the source language and translating it literally; and *literal translation*, characterized by a word-for-word rendering of the original text. On the other hand, oblique translation includes four methods: *transposition*, which substitutes one grammatical category for another while retaining the original meaning; *modulation*, which alters the perspective or point of view of the message while maintaining its essence; *equivalence*, which uses entirely different stylistic or structural approaches to describe the same situation and achieve an equivalent effect; and *adaptation*, applied when the context of the source language message does not exist in the culture of the target language [1, p. 157].

The previously described classification of translation strategies by J.-P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet can be complemented by the framework proposed by Ukrainian linguists V. Karaban and V. Koptilov, who categorize translation transformations into three main types:

lexical, grammatical, and complex. *Lexical transformations* focus on adapting individual words or expressions to account for differences in linguistic and cultural contexts. *Grammatical transformations* involve modifications to the syntactic or morphological structure of a text to align it with the norms of the target language. *Complex transformations* combine elements of both lexical and grammatical adjustments to address multifaceted translation challenges. For translating specialized and contextual vocabulary, lexical transformations play a critical role and include techniques such as *concretization* (narrowing the meaning of a term), *generalization* (broadening the meaning), *addition* (supplementing implicit information), *omission* (removing non-essential elements), *modulation* (changing perspective while retaining meaning), *transposition* (changing word order or grammatical category), and *equivalence* (finding culturally and contextually appropriate equivalents). The translation of proper names is usually performed with the help of different types of *transcoding*, transferring the source language elements directly into the target language letter-for-letter, according to the accepted transcription or alphabet correlation [3, 4]. These approaches help ensure the accuracy and clarity of translations while maintaining their functional relevance.

Onomastic vocabulary refers to names and terms used for proper nouns, including personal names, place names (toponyms), names of organizations, brands, and other unique identifiers. These terms often carry cultural, historical, or symbolic significance, making them integral to the identity and meaning of a text. Researching the ways of translating onomastic vocabulary is important because such terms may lack direct equivalents in the target language, requiring translators to employ strategies that preserve their cultural context and connotations. Effective translation of onomastic vocabulary ensures that the essence of the original text is retained while making it accessible and meaningful to the target audience. To understand how translation transformations function when dealing with onomastic vocabulary, this study will analyse fragments of the Ukrainian text *"The UnSimple"* by Taras Prokhasko and its English translation by Uilleam Blacker. This comparison will highlight the strategies used to adapt culturally specific terms, proper names, and specialized expressions while maintaining the essence and readability of the original text.

For the translation of the proper names, V. Karaban [3, p. 99] and I. Korunets [5, p. 80] suggest using transcoding, using the approved standards of transliteration and transcription, proposed by the Ukrainian or British/American governments. For example: *«Це місце вигадав **Франциск**, якого частіше називали Францом»* [6]. – *"This place had been created by **Franzysk**, who was more often called Franz"* [7]. With the means of transcoding, the translator rendered the name of the character, despite the name having European origin and being an old way of translation of its European analogue (French – *François*, Italian – *Francesco*). This was done in order to preserve the original spelling of the name, authentic for Ukrainian language. However, not always transcoding can preserve the spelling features of the name: *«Колись Франц казав **Себастянові**,..»* [6]. – *"Franz once told **Sebastian**..."* [7]. *Себастя́н* (Sebastian) is a Ukrainian variation of a Latin name, which, despite being transcoded appropriately, still does not preserve the features of the original, namely the word stress, which was not marked in the original sentence and thus lost in translation, meaning that the reader will most likely read this name according to the rules of English spelling. In some cases, when translating

surnames, the transcoding method is not appropriate, for example: *«... немовля – доньку героїчної самохотниці Анни Ялівців-ської»* [6]. – *"... an infant – the daughter of the heroic volunteer, Anna of Ialivets"* [7]. Despite the fact that the original surname of the character can be read as a normal Ukrainian surname, translator deliberately chose not to use transcoding, instead interpreting that surname not as a person's one, but rather the place of origin of the character. This decision is reasonable, because from the context reader learns that *Ialivets* poses as a main location in the story and a birthplace for most of the characters.

The rules of translating toponymic terminology are similar to those of the proper names, and the usual strategy for it is means of transcoding as well, with the additions of other transformational techniques. Most Ukrainian geographical names are rendered in the English translation using transcription standards; however, it is not enough to transcribe the original word sound for sound, since Ukrainian original is often affected with the rules of conjugation and the gender mark, thus having different endings and suffixes, while English translation uses strictly Nominative case and does not use gender marked inflections. *«Пройшов Чорногору, пройшов під Говерлою і Петросом»* [6]. – *"He crossed Chornohora, passing by Hoverla and Petros"* [7].

In certain cases, translator can find it appropriate to use other kind of technique, such as *calque* or *borrowing*: *«Потому панцерник наїхав на міну, забуту італійцями, які будували тунель на Яблуницькому перевалі»* [6]. – *"Then the car ran over a mine that had been left behind by the Italians when they'd been building a tunnel in the Iablunytsky valley"* [7]. Here only one word from the toponym was transcribed, while the second word a general notion was rendered with the help of equivalence. Despite the words *перевал* (*passage*) and *valley* having different functional meanings and different contextual usage, what unites them is the fact that they both denote a similar thing, namely a place located in between the mountains, thus posing as functional equivalents for each other.

In translation of more widely used toponyms, translator can use not the name gotten from transcoding means, but the historically established translation: *«У вересні 1914 року вона добровільно пішла до війська і після кількох тижнів вишколу потрапила на фронт у Східній Галичині»* [6]. – *"In September 1914 she volunteered for the army, and after a few weeks' training was sent to the front in eastern Galicia"* [7]. *Eastern Galicia* is an internationally accepted way of naming a group of Polish and Ukrainian territories. Despite the Ukrainian version of the name deriving from the existing city of *Halych*, its old Latin translation (*Galic*) is preferred to be used as a basis for the name.

In his guide to the theory and practice of translation, V. Karaban mentions the necessity of adding explanatory units for the pragmatic adaptation of the text to the target audience, making the text understandable [3, p. 358]. The basic characteristics of certain geographical notions can be deduced from the context of the text, but in certain cases it is preferable for a translator to add their specifying commentary. The example of using combined translation techniques when rendering toponyms can be seen in the next sentence: *«Вони почали ходити за Менчіл Квасівський до Кевелова, який стікав у Чорну Тису,..»* [6]. – *"They started walking beyond Menchil hill near Kvasiv to Keveliv creek, which flowed into the Chorna Tysa,.."* [7]. The addition of the words *hill* and *creek* in translation helps the reader to understand the names, that can be already

familiar for a Ukrainian audience. Another interesting technique used here is *transposition*, the change of one grammatical category into another, which here denotes the change of how the relationship between the object and the location it belongs to is expressed. In the source language, *Квасівський* is an adjective that indicates the object's belonging to or association with a specific place (*Kvasiv*). In the translation, this belonging is expressed using the prepositional phrase *near Kvasiv*, which shifts the grammatical form but retains the same sense of localization. This is done in order to adapt the text for the target language, where such kinds of word formation are not used widely and where different means of translation such constructions exist. To that, such way of structuring in translation helps the reader not to get lost in different unfamiliar names.

In certain cases, translator's additional commentary is needed in order to convey peculiar notions of the names: *«Головним мешканцем Ялівця був, звичайно, сам ялівець»* [6]. – *"The main inhabitant of Ialivets (Juniper) was, of course, the juniper (ialivets) itself"* [7]. The name of the city in the original text originated from the name of a plant, which cannot be translated with transcoding since it is not a proper name but a common word with an existing equivalent in the target language. Thus, in order to preserve Ukrainian wordplay, translator adds a translation of the plant name and its transcoded variation in the brackets after each of the words, this way marking that despite the difference of the names of a city and a plant, they still share a similar meaning and are related semantically.

Translation of names is a complicated process and most of the time it requires additional research on the etymology and cultural context of the translated material. In certain cases, the task of tracking down the precise meaning is difficult and as a result, it can lead to the incorrect translation. *«...діти, стоячи на ньому, струшували з дерева осінні яблука. Здається, сніжний кальвін.»* [6]. – *"...children climbed on it to shake the autumn apples off the high branches of the tree next to it. Apparently white calvins"* [7]. In the given example, the translator used calque technique, using the means of modulation and transcoding, seemingly keeping the structure and characteristics of the object. However, not much can be found upon searching the name *white calvin*, the reason for this being that the classic name for that sort of apples, which we know it is from the context of the previous sentence, is its original French name *Calville Blanc* or *Calvill Blanc d'Hiver*. Such distortion of translation could have been caused by the fact that in the original text the name *сніжний кальвін* is also not a proper name for this apple tree. Presumably, it was deliberately written that way by the author in order to present it as a dialectic variation of the name. Such losses of the true meaning are not critical, however, they clearly demonstrate the complexity of the translation process.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. Translating from Ukrainian into English presents distinct challenges, especially with onomastic vocabulary such as names, titles, and toponyms. These terms often hold cultural, historical, or contextual importance, which makes conveying their meaning and significance in English a demanding process. The study outlines the concept of translation transformations, provides insights into their classification by various specialists, and examines the challenges of rendering onomastic and specialized vocabulary. Using examples from Taras Prokhasko's novel *"The UnSimple"* and its English translation by Uilleam Blacker, the study demonstrates how different translation strategies

can effectively convey the author's style, vocabulary, and narrative tone while addressing linguistic and cultural nuances. The findings reveal that the most common technique for translating onomastic vocabulary is transcoding, although it is often combined with or replaced by other techniques, such as calque, modulation, transposition, generalization, and concretization, depending on the context.

Future research could expand on this study by analyzing other bilingual texts to identify trends and variations in the translation of specialized vocabulary across different genres. Additionally, exploring the impact of translation decisions on target audiences could provide valuable insights for both theory and practice in translation studies.

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Швачко С., Смолянінова В. Специфіка перекладу онімної лексики з української мови на англійську

Анотація. У статті досліджуються виклики та стратегії, пов'язані з перекладом онімної лексики з української мови англійською, використовуючи роман Тараса Прохаська «НепрОсті» та його англійський переклад, виконаний Уіллемом Блекером, як основний дослідницький матеріал. Онімна лексика, яка включає імена, назви та топоніми, часто має культурне й історичне значення, що робить її точний переклад особливо складним. У дослідженні перекладацькі трансформації визначаються як цілеспрямовані зміни, застосовані до текстів-джерел для забезпечення змістового та послідовного відтворення в мові перекладу. Ці трансформації класифікуються на лексичні, граматичні та комплексні, а такі техніки, як транскодування, калькування, модуляція, транспозиція, узагальнення та конкретизація, відіграють ключову роль.

У дослідженні підкреслюється, що транскодування є найчастіше використовуваною технікою для перекладу власних назв і географічних найменувань. Проте його часто доповнюють або замінюють іншими методами для збереження контекстуальних і культурних нюансів. Наприклад, деякі назви можуть потребувати додаткових пояснень чи модифікацій для адаптації до граматичних і стилістичних норм мови перекладу. У статті також ілюструється необхідність гнучкого підходу перекладача при вирішенні унікальних завдань, таких як збереження гри слів або етимологічних зв'язків.

Аналізуючи конкретні приклади з роману «НепрОсті», стаття демонструє, як різні стратегії перекладу можуть передати стиль автора, зберегти культурну сутність і врахувати мовні відмінності між українською та англійською мовами. Цей аналіз закладає основу для розуміння складнощів перекладу спеціалізованої лексики та слугує цінним матеріалом для навчання майбутніх перекладачів.

Результати дослідження вказують на те, що майбутні роботи можуть охоплювати аналіз більших двомовних корпусів для виявлення ширших тенденцій у перекладі спеціалізованої лексики та дослідження впливу перекладацьких рішень на цільову аудиторію. Такі дослідження дозволять глибше зрозуміти ефективні стратегії збереження як значення, так і культурної автентичності в перекладі.

Ключові слова: перекладацькі трансформації, еквівалентність перекладу, онімна лексика, власні назви, культурна адаптація.