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## TRANSLATOR'S WORK PECULIARITIES WITHIN OSINT BASED INVESTIGATIONS

**Summary.** The article is devoted to the description and analysis of the translator's work peculiarities within open source intelligence (OSINT) based investigations. The range of available sources of information is described. Attention is drawn to the concept of OSINT itself, the publicly available information sources are described, the objectives of the investigation process. The article reveals some features of translation and the translator's work with open sources of information, the tools and methods are analyzed. There is discussed a number of the main duties of an interpreter in accordance with the direction or stage of the investigation in the article. It is noted that a translator needs to have not only proficiency in a foreign language but also technical skills to work with linguistic software as well as specialized programs for collecting data from open sources. There are also analyzed the difficulties that a translator faces when working with OSINT in the article. In order to accurately translate idioms, slang, and regional dialects, which frequently appear in the flow of information from social media and other media sources while preserving the original meaning, a translator must have a broad worldview and an extensive vocabulary. It is noted that in order for the translation to be correct, cooperation between the translator and analysts is essential. Analysts should provide context for the translated materials to help connect scattered data points. The speed of the investigation and its results depend on the correctness and accuracy of the translation. Therefore, it is noted that inexperienced and young translators in intelligence work should not be assigned tasks involving OSINT technology, as potential errors could negatively impact the investigation's outcome. The article states that besides language proficiency, cultural competence, and technical skills, a translator must have analytical thinking in order to identify valuable content within large data sets and recognize certain patterns.

**Key words:** open source intelligence (OSINT), investigation, intelligence, information sources, translator, skills, information, translation, culture, analysis.

Currently, the State Security Service pays great attention to the effectiveness of investigative actions. Because of the expanding the data volumes and technology developments, conducting comprehensive and effective investigations demands a structured methodology, appropriate tools, and strict adherence to legal and ethical standards. Thus Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) has emerged as an essential resource in fields such as law enforcement (tracking criminal activities, locating suspects, and gathering evidence from public sources), cybersecurity (identifying potential threats, vulnerabilities, and threat actors by monitoring online activity and forums), national security (monitoring geopolitical developments, terrorist activities, and foreign military movements), corporate security (background checking, competitive analysis, and market research

and competitive intelligence), journalism (verifying facts, sourcing information, and uncovering stories). The role of a translator in the field of OSINT based investigations cannot be underestimated. The speed of the investigation and its results depend on the correctness and accuracy of the translation. Inexperienced and young translators in intelligence work should not be assigned tasks involving OSINT technology, as potential errors could negatively impact the investigation's outcome. Before delving into the specifics of translation, let's first explore the concept of OSINT.

Open source intelligence (OSINT) is an intelligence discipline that involves searching, selecting, and collecting intelligence information from publicly available sources, as well as analyzing and systematizing it. In the intelligence community, the term "open information source" denotes a publicly accessible source distinguishing it from classified or restricted ones. However, it differs from "open source information" (OSIF), which encompasses any information available in the media. Additionally, it is not synonymous with "public intelligence" and should not be mistaken for open-source software". According to analysts, 90 percent of intelligence data comes from open sources and only 10 percent comes from agents. OSINT based investigations utilize a wide range of publicly available information sources, including:

1. The Internet, in particular web communities and user-generated content – social networks, video hosting sites, wikis, blogs, web forums;
2. Public government reports, official budget data, demographics, press conference materials, various public statements;
3. Observations – radio monitoring, use of publicly available remote sensing data and aerial photography (e.g. Google Earth);
4. Professional and academic reports, conferences, papers, articles, including literature that is considered "gray";
5. Recently, the analysis of mass leaks from services and social networks has also been considered as an OSINT [1].

However, there may be some challenges when using OSINT. For example, managing and filtering the huge amount of available data, ensuring the reliability and accuracy of information from various sources may be difficult or overwhelming tasks. In addition, privacy issues may arise due to the balance between intelligence gathering and respect for individual privacy rights.

In order to better understand the role of the translator and the specifics of his work in the field of OSINT based investigations, it is necessary to briefly consider the process of investigation using OSINT itself. At the beginning, the objectives of the investigation are clearly defined, for example: tracking the digital footprint of a suspect, identifying vulnerabilities in the network, or conducting competitive intelligence for a corporate report. Then it is determined which data sources are most relevant to the set goals,

using, for example, LinkedIn for professional profiling, or Google Dorks for advanced search queries, or Shodan (Sentient Hyper-Optimised Data Access Network) for IoT device data. After identifying the required data sources, a structured data collection plan is created, outlining the tools and methods to be used (such as web scraping and social media monitoring), essential search terms, keywords, filters, and the timeline for data collection. The next stage is data collection, where tools such as Maltego for relationship mapping, theHarvester for email and domain discovery, SpiderFoot for automated reconnaissance are used. After collecting the data, it is necessary to verify and validate it to ensure its accuracy. This includes cross-checking the results with multiple sources, seeking confirmation from trusted publications or databases, and utilizing metadata tools like ExifTool to authenticate digital assets. After the data has been verified, it is analyzed i.e. patterns, trends, and relationships that meet the set goals are identified. For example, Maltego is used to visualize relationships, and tools like Brandwatch are used to analyze sentiment in social media posts. After completing all the previous steps, a report is produced that displays the findings in a clear, actionable format, including the methodology used, visualizations such as graphs or network maps, conclusions, and recommendations. When carrying out work, it is essential to adhere to legal and ethical standards so as not to violate privacy laws or ethical standards [2].

Let's consider the work of translator in the sphere of OSINT investigation. Translators play an important role in OSINT based investigation by breaking language barriers and enabling analysts to access global information. Their work ensures accurate, culturally nuanced interpretations of foreign-language data, which is vital for actionable intelligence. When generally analyzing the work of a translator, we can identify a number of his main responsibilities in accordance with the direction or stage of the investigation.

First of all it can be distinguished the multilingual data translation which includes translation texts of the documents, social media, news outlets, forums, and multimedia materials such as audio or/and video into the investigators' working language. This work is carried out at the stage of collecting information from open sources. Since the sources are different, different types of translation are required. For example, written translation of documents differs from translation of media information, since the content of these two sources can be completely different. Media sources of news or other Internet information can include longreads, which have their own translation specifics. Along with the text, they include audio and/or video content, which, in turn, requires certain translation approaches and methods. Sometimes, you have to use additional software. For example, if you're working with audio or video that is contaminated with background noise, you can use Enhance Speech v2 or Adobe Enhance Speech, which are the features of the Adobe Podcast application, or other special programs for speech and sound cleaning. When working with blogs, forums or chats on social networks, the translator must also be familiar with specialized terms, slang and abbreviation to ensure accurate message translation, for example, such as *G2G* (*got to go*) – *треба йти*, *LMK* (*let me know*) – *дай мені знати*, *2nte* (*tonight*) – *сьогодні ввечері*, *Totes* (*totally*) – *безперечно*, *Just sayin'* – *просто говорю*, and so forth. In each particular case, specific translation transformations are used. For example, in order to translate *G2G* or *LMK* or *2nte* it should be used decoding translation, i. e. to interpret and translate the coded information into a comprehensible form, and use

the transformation of interpretation of meaning (descriptive translation). In order to translate *Totes* and *Just sayin'* it should be used descriptive translation too.

Besides translation texts of the documents, social media, audio or/and video, translator should handle technical jargon (e.g., cybersecurity, legal, or military terms) specific to the investigation's focus. Examples of technical jargon in cybersecurity include *DDoS*, *malware*, *phishing*, *spyware*, and more. In order to translate this terms it should be used the explanatory translation, for example: *DDoS* – *тип кібератаки, коли зловмисники відправляють підроблені запити на сервер чи мережу з метою перевантажити їх і зробити недоступними для звичайних користувачів* [3]; *malware* – *шкідлива програма* [4]; *phishing* – *фішинг (вид інтернет-шахрайства, метою якого є отримання доступу до конфіденційних даних користувачів – логін та паролів)* [5], *spyware* – *категорія шкідливих програм, які без згоди користувача збирають і передають дані про пристрій та виконувани на ньому дії* [6]. As for translation of military terms, there also it should be used the decoding or explanatory translation. Examples of military terms include *dittybopper* which have two different meanings depending on the context: 1) *сигнал азбуки Морзе, що передається радіооператорам розвідки*; 2) *солдат, який марширує поза тактовим ритмом інших солдатів* (explanatory translation); *IRR* – *individual Ready Reserve* – *резерв збройних сил, що складається з резервістів, які раніше були чинними військовослужбовцями* (decoding and explanatory translation); *anounce* – *ящик, який моряки можуть використовувати для анонімного залишення будь-яких коментарів або скарг, які можуть виникнути на борту судна* (explanatory translation), and more [7].

As for the translation of legal terms, such as *acquit* – *виправдати*, *subrogation* – *суброгація: дві страхові компанії домовляються про деяку суму фінансової компенсації, яку буде присуджено представнику позивача представником винного*; *surrogates court* – *суд у справах спадщини*; *hearsay* – *чутки – позасудова заява, зроблена кимось іншим, кого підслухали і тепер свідки в суді намагаються говорити про це*; *intangible property* – *нематеріальне майно*; *testator* – *заповідач*, and more. As can be seen from the examples, direct or literal translation as well as explanatory translation, are used to translate terms used in jurisprudence. As it can be seen from the examples, in order to translate terms used in jurisprudence the direct or literal translation, as well as explanatory translation, are used. Besides, for example, a word such as *subrogation* is translated using the tracing method.

Regarding the translator's duty to analyze the cultural and contextual aspects of the material, they must possess a broad outlook and an extensive vocabulary in order to accurately translate idioms, slang, and regional dialects while preserving the original meaning. When translating idioms and other phraseological units, it is important to convey the meaning of not each individual word, but the entire phrase, preserving its integral meaning. For example, such idiom like *To cut off with a shilling* is translated as *залишити без спадщини*. The idiom *Make two bites of the cherry* means *ділитися чимось малим*. Such idioms are translated in a descriptive way. When it comes to translating slang, it falls into several categories, including professional, youth, cultural or subcultural, criminal, military, and more. As a result, slang can be challenging for a translator who lacks familiarity with the specific area of life under investigation.

Here are some examples of slang: *hook up (with)* – *перетнутися, зустрітися*; *just don't buy it* – *не купитися на це, не потрапитися*; *no use to smb stick in ground* – *немає сенсу стирчати тут*; *dude* – *чужак*; *Desert Queen* – «Королева пустелі»: посилання на фізичну привабливість жінок у збройних силах, що використовується в контексті для позначення людини, яка зазвичай оцінюється на рівні «4» за шкалою привабливості «від 1 до 10» (у Штатах), стає «10» після прибуття в зону відповідальності, але знову повертається до «4» після повернення до Штатів [8]. When translating slang from English into Ukrainian, translators most commonly use metaphor. But when it is impossible to translate a slang unit into a metaphor, a descriptive or explanatory translation must be used instead.

Another aspect of social webs translation is the simplification of spelling rules or the complete or partial replacement of words with numbers. In order to correctly translate such texts, it is necessary to constantly monitor the emergence of new words or ways of expressing them and to study the culture of the language of the source text. For example, in China, entire sentences are often encoded in text messages using numbers because the pronunciation of some words matches the pronunciation of certain digits. For example, 57386 means “I went to work”.

When discussing socio-political and cultural nuances that can affect the interpretation of intelligence, it should be referred to the process of translation adaptation. Cultural context includes traditions, values, norms and views characteristic of a particular community. It is an integral part of any language, reflected in idiomatic expressions, metaphors, images, ways of conveying emotions and the logic of text structure. Neglecting cultural aspects in translation can result in meaning distortion, misunderstandings, or even intercultural conflicts. What is considered polite or neutral in one culture may be interpreted as offensive in another one. For instance, analyzing data it can be referred to Geert Hofstede's typology of cultural dimensions, which serves as a foundation for cross-cultural communication. This model is based on the concept that values can be categorized into six key cultural dimensions: power distance, individualism vs. collectivism, masculinity vs. femininity, uncertainty avoidance, long-term orientation, and indulgence vs. restraint. Hofstede highlights that these cultural dimensions provide a general framework for understanding a culture, rather than rigid rules, helping to guide decision-making in cross-cultural contexts [9].

Another aspect of a translator's role in OSINT investigations is providing support during live broadcasts on social media, news reports, or darknet forums in the course of urgent operations. The darknet, or “dark web”, is a hidden part of the internet where information is exchanged with a high level of anonymity, forming an underground network within online communications. Unlike the publicly accessible web, navigating the darknet requires specialized tools and knowledge. This part of the web can be accessed using specialized software, with Tor (The Onion Router) being the most widely used tool and I2P (Invisible Internet Project). Darknet language includes certain terms that can be difficult to translate due to the specifics of their use. For example, a term like *dead drops* (direct translation) means *віддаленні місця, де продавець скриває товар, про які він повідомляє покупця* (explanatory or descriptive translation). A term like *drop catching* means *перехоплення домену* (explanatory translation). There are some other examples, such as *money mule* that can be translated as *грошовий мул* (direct

translation) or, sometimes, it is translated like *смурфер* (*smurfer*) (transcribed translation) means *людина, яка переказує гроші, отримані незаконним шляхом, наприклад, шляхом крадіжки чи шахрайства* (explanatory translation). The translation of socio-political texts is subject to high standards. It must be effective, capable of accurately addressing specific investigative tasks, and simultaneously maintain precision and political correctness.

Besides the specified areas of a translator's work in OSINT investigations, it is necessary to focus on the translation of streaming data transmission. Streaming refers to multimedia content that is continuously delivered to a user over the Internet by a streaming provider. This concept applies to both telecommunications-based distribution and content originally shared through streaming formats like radio and television, as well as non-streaming formats such as books, video cassettes, and audio CDs. Stream providers are software components in IoT applications and systems that gather data. They transmit records to a stream handler, which stores stream names, data values, and sequence numbers. Multimedia data typically requires significant storage and transmission capacity, making associated costs high. To reduce these costs, streamed content is usually compressed before being transmitted over the broadcast network [10]. When working with streaming media data, a translator often faces certain difficulties. For example, it is sometimes impossible to interpret the intent during translation. While a translation may be technically accurate, but a nuance of intent can completely change the meaning of a sentence from one language to another. Besides this, it is very important to consider the differences between American and British English. There are often differences in pronunciation and phrases that will stand out to a typical American and British speaker, for example: *to the reverse* – *в зворотньому порядку, позаду*, instead of *at the back* – *позаду*. When translating different types of content, it is essential to compile a glossary of previously translated words, terms, phrases, and expressions that posed challenges during the translation process. This helps facilitate future work with similar material.

During an OSINT investigation, it is necessary to verify the authenticity of the source. At this stage, a translator is also involved if working with a foreign information source. It is necessary to identify potential disinformation or manipulated content. To identify fake content, first of all, attention is paid to the headlines, which perform two main functions in the text: they briefly display the main content of the text and perform the function of attracting attention. Both functions are taken into account when translating. If we consider the functions of headlines in general, they are: informative, pragmatic, nominative and communicative functions. In addition, the headlines themselves are divided into thematic, complex, directional and fully informative. Thematic headlines can be a quotation or famous phrase. A complex headline is rich in information and establishes various connections to the text, ultimately enhancing its expressiveness. Directional headlines, on the other hand, focus on a single element of the text's semantic structure. Fully informative headlines convey the overall meaning of the text, highlighting its central idea or thesis that expands on the main concept [11]. In such types of headlines, it is important to assess the emotional tone of the information. Excessive emotional coloring of the content may indicate a fake, as the goal of such material is to disable the reader's rational perception. The challenges of translating headlines include abbreviations and acronyms unfamiliar to the language of the investigation, overly general text



that conveys the content of material introducing unknown concepts, names of unfamiliar organizations and communities, as well as idiomatic expressions, which are also commonly used in headlines. In addition to verifying the URL, it is essential to check the name of the media outlet. Copies of well-known pages or websites are often created to spread rumors or fake information. For an accurate translation of media names, it is necessary to find the original names of organizations that are officially recognized. It is essential to verify messages and appeals disseminated by authorities on the official pages of government institutions. When conducting such verification, it is important to pay attention to lexical devices that add emotional coloring to speech, such as oxymoron, metaphors, and epithets. The purpose of using these linguistic tools is to manipulate public perception. For an accurate translation of these lexical elements, it is crucial to have a deep understanding of the culture of the source language's country. In order for the translation to be correct, cooperation between the translator and analysts is essential. Analysts should provide context for the translated materials to help connect scattered data points. As a result, the findings are summarized to optimize the analysis of the obtained information.

In conclusion, it is important to outline the skills and qualifications required for a translator working in the field of OSINT investigations. First and foremost, this involves linguistic expertise, which includes fluency in multiple languages, including rare or regionally significant ones. Additionally, OSINT skills are required, including familiarity with tools such as Maltego, Google Dorks, or platforms for collecting data from social networks. Cultural competence is essential, meaning a deep understanding of the regions and languages associated with the materials being analyzed. A modern translator must possess the necessary technical skills to work with linguistic software, such as Trados, MemoQ and others, alongside artificial intelligence tools (e.g., Google Translate, DeepL), while ensuring human oversight. In addition to the aforementioned skills, a translator must have analytical thinking in order to identify valuable content within large data sets and recognize patterns.

In their work, when participating in OSINT based investigations, a translator faces significant challenges. In addition to the ones described above, the translator has to handle large volumes of information and process it at high speed, managing vast amounts of data in real time. Moreover, a challenge arises from complex linguistics: deciphering encrypted messages, regional dialects, or mixed-language content. It is essential for the translator to avoid unconscious cultural or linguistic biases during the translation process. In their work, a translator must adhere to ethical and legal standards, including maintaining confidentiality and complying with GDPR or other data protection laws when handling personal data. The translator must remain objective and neutral to avoid distorting the original meaning of sources. Additionally, they must handle content related to conflicts, human rights violations, or terrorism with great responsibility. A translator working in the field of OSINT investigations may require advanced training in cybersecurity or forensic linguistics in order to respond to emerging threats.

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#### **Єлісєєва С. Особливості роботи перекладача в сфері OSINT-розслідувань**

**Анотація.** Стаття присвячена опису і аналізу особливостей роботи перекладача в рамках розслідувань на основі відкритих джерел інформації (OSINT). Описано коло доступних джерел інформації. Звертається увага саме на поняття OSINT, описуються загальнодоступні джерела інформації, цілі процесу розслідування. У статті розкриваються деякі особливості перекладу та роботи перекладача з відкритими джерелами інформації, аналізуються інструменти та методи. Також розглядається низка основних обов'язків перекладача відповідно до напрямку або етапу розслідування. Зазначається, що перекладачеві необхідно мати не тільки знання іноземної мови, але й технічні навички роботи з лінгвістичним програмним забезпеченням, а також спеціалізованими програмами для збору даних з відкритих джерел. У статті також аналізуються труднощі, з якими стикається перекладач під час роботи з OSINT. Для того, щоб точно перекладати ідіоми, сленг і регіональні діалекти, які часто зустрічаються в потоці інформації з соціальних мереж та інших медіаджерел, зберігаючи при цьому вихідний зміст, перекладач повинен мати широкий світогляд і великий словниковий запас. Зазначається, що для того, щоб переклад був правильним, потрібна співпраця між перекладачем та аналітиками. Аналітики повинні надавати контекст для перекладених матеріалів, щоб допомогти зв'язати розрізнені точки даних. Швидкість розслідування та його результати залежать від правильності та точності перекладу. Тому наголошується, що недосвідченим та молодим перекладачам у розвідувальній роботі не слід доручати завдання, пов'язані з технологією OSINT, оскільки потенційні помилки можуть негативно вплинути на результат розслідування. У статті вказується на те, що крім володіння мовою, культурними компетентностями та технічними навичками, перекладач повинен мати аналітичне мислення, щоб виявляти цінний контент у великих наборах даних та розпізнавати певні закономірності.

**Ключові слова:** розвідка з відкритих джерел (OSINT), розслідування, розвідка, джерела інформації, перекладач, навички, інформація, переклад, культура, аналіз.