

Professional Training of Translators / Interpreters

необходимого или превращаться в голую формальность. Здесь как раз и важна направляющая роль преподавателя и его способность к объяснению. Т.е. роль преподавателя невозможно сводить, сколь бы это ни было политкорректно, и к какой-то формальной, чисто номинальной функции. Оценочность не может не присутствовать: вопрос, в чем и как она выражается, как структурирована и на что направлена. Мы безусловно должны в итоге прийти к качественному продукту, но нам особенно важно понять, как мы это делаем, почему, за счет чего.

В заключение хотелось бы с великим сожалением подчеркнуть, что в России пока, как мне кажется, не осмыслен в должной степени вопрос о целях, задачах и возможностях университетской подготовки переводчиков на всех уровнях обучения – бакалавриате, специалитете, магистратуре. Как только образовательная парадигма поменялась, здесь обнаружилось обидное «зависание». Нужно все-таки как следует разобраться для самих себя, зачем, кого и чему мы учим, к чему и на каком уровне мы способны (и способны ли) подготовить.

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Challenges Students Face during Translation

Translation dates back to centuries. Humans started to translate since the appearance of the written literature. It was the main means to be introduced to foreign culture, literature, achievements in different fields of science. What is translation? There are different answers to this question. Translation is understood as the communication of meaning from one language (the source) to another language (the target), or as the transmittal of written text from one language into another. The terms *translation* and *interpretation* are often used interchangeably, with translation referring to the written language and interpretation to the spoken word. Translation is viewed as a process and a product. The article looks at some challenges Georgian students face in the course “Theory and Practice of Translation”.

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Translation is done by a translator. The translator needs to have a good knowledge of both the source and the target languages, in addition to a high linguistic sensitivity, as they should transmit the writer's intention, original thoughts and opinions in the translated version as precisely and faithfully as possible [6]. In the past, mainly religious literature was translated. Accordingly, the translators were monks, priests and even kings, because they were educated and knew several languages well. Centuries have passed, translation became more important than ever. We may say that the 21st century is a century of translation. It gives opportunity to people to be introduced to other nations' culture and thinking, literature and achievements in science. To develop and fulfill this most difficult mission is a miracle, but miracles are done by gifted people, professionals who know their work well. Not everyone can do it. Accordingly, some translators are masters, others are not. As a Georgian translator Maia Badridze says: "A translator's craft or art is very similar to that of a musician. Both interpret the writing of others, but also incorporate part of their own souls. Two performers play the same opus differently. The same is true of a translator" [7.1]. Being a translator is a big responsibility as s/he should be very careful. He/she has to observe, refine and work on every nuance with magnificence. There is no insignificant word in translation. To be a good translator means to know grammar and lexis of both languages well and of course to know the ways how to translate and find the solution of any problem you come across during translation.

Every translator has his/her own vision. The first thing that remains after reading the translated text is the rhythm of the work with its pauses, acceleration and deceleration. Then there are the professional skills of the translator that can be learned to some degree but if you are not born a translator, learning just won't save you. Many things come with experience, but not intuition. And a good translator should have it. This is what is innate and defines the individuality of the translator [7.2].

The translation is hard work. Any person can find the meaning of unknown words in the dictionary but not everyone is able to render the author's words exactly and feel the inner music of the text. Sometimes a translator has to stop and leave his/her work for a while. The reason may be different: tiredness, difficulties in finding the exact meaning of the word, phrase or a sentence etc.

The Georgian language has a rich word stock, enormous potential and experience in translation. There were translation centers at monasteries in the past. A lot of religious literature was translated from Greek and many other languages into Georgian and vice versa. This tradition is going on today. A lot of literary works are translated into Georgian nowadays but it is

a drop in the sea. Consequently, it cannot fully reflect the achievements of the world literature. The main problem lies in insufficient number of skillful translators. Of course, there are some exceptions. Thanks to them Georgian readers got acquainted with many foreign authors. But the problem of good translators still exists. It should be mentioned that Georgian readers are sensitive, they value the quality of the translation, as high quality translation in the native language is of great importance. It has different emotional tone. Most readers perceive literary work deeply only in their own language, and it is natural, as the language is a completely irrational phenomenon which is on a genetic level in humans.

Taking into account the market demands, our university seeks to give its students basic knowledge and practice in translation. The students of English Philology take the course “The Theory and Practice of Translation”. The course gives students an opportunity to learn basic issues of translation theory and translate texts from English into Georgian and vice versa from literature, economy, education, business etc. Students’ best translations in literature are often published.

While practicing in translation students come across some challenges. Below we discuss several common challenges students meet while translating.

The first challenge is translating idioms. Idioms are linguistic expressions, specific to each language or culture. While they are essential elements of the language, they’re also difficult to explain when you are not aware of the cultural differences between the source and target languages [4.3]. The problem lies in their meanings. The meaning of many idioms can’t be understood from the ordinary meanings of the words in it. For example, Idiom “Make it snappy” comes from the verb *to snap* which means *to rub the thumb and middle finger together quickly to make a sharp sound*. So, “Make a snap” is a command that means “do it quickly in the time it takes to snap one’s fingers” (სწრაფად ან იჩქარე). “Get off my back!” is an idiom meaning “Stop bothering me!” (ნუ მაწუხებ). The idiom “You hit the nail on the head” means “You’re exactly right” (მართალი ხარ). The idiom “She gave him a dirty look” means “She looked at him angrily”. (მან გაბრაზებულმა შეხედა). “We are all in the same boat” means “We all have the same problem” (ერთ ნავში ვსხედვართ ანუ ერთი და იგივე სიტუაციაში ვართ, ერთი პრობლემა გვაქვს). If translators translate them word for word the readers will not understand what these idioms mean and what the text is about. There are lots of such idioms in the English language, translating them requires energy and patience from the translator.

That is why it is essential for a translator to know the exact meaning of the idiom before translating the text. A translator needs to know the right meaning of the idiom and then look for alternative versions that express the same concept in the target language. Luckily, a great number of English idioms have corresponding constructions (or idioms) in the Georgian language but some idioms are a problem.

The second challenge is translating phrasal verbs. A phrasal verb is a combination of a verb and a preposition, a verb and an adverb, or a verb with both an adverb and a preposition. Any of these combinations are not only part of the syntax of the sentence, but are considered a complete semantic unit as well [9]. There are no phrasal verbs in Georgian, which makes it difficult for students to translate them correctly. In Georgian we have verbs which are added by preverbs to translate phrasal verbs. Georgian verbs are divided into three groups:

- Verbs that have no preverb at all (for example, აქვს - *aqvs* , ჰყავს-*hyavs*, უყვარს- *uyvars*);
- Verbs that are not used without preverbs (for example, მოფრინდა - *mofrinda*, მიდის - *midis*, გაიგო - *gaigo*);
- Verbs that can add preverbs or not .When verbs add preverbs they change their meanings.

Phrasal verbs often have a meaning which is quite different from the original verb. Sometimes one phrasal verb has different meanings. Very often they are translated in one word. For instance, phrasal verb *take off* means *to leave the ground and fly*. It is translated into Georgian as აფრენა (*afrena*), the second meaning is *suddenly become popular or successful* უცებ გახდა პოპულარული, წარმატებული. Students often confuse phrasal verbs and can't find their exact translation. Sometimes the context helps them to get the exact meaning but the phrasal verb *break in* in the sentence "He liked to *break in* his assistants slowly" is difficult to translate even with the help of the context. According to the Longman online Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs, the phrasal verb *break in* means *to help a person get used to a certain way of behaving or working* [11]. It means that students should be very attentive and read all the meanings of phrasal verbs to find the corresponding meaning and translate them correctly.

The third challenge is language structure. Every language has its language structure based on the rules existing in the language. The complexity and singularity of this framework directly correlates to the difficulty of translation. A simple sentence in the English language has a subject, verb and an object. For example, "I eat pizza." But in the Georgian language the structure of a simple sentence is a subject, direct object and a

verb. For example , „მე პიცას ვჭამ“ (me picas vcham). Besides, it should be mentioned that the sign of the 1st person-[v] is added to the verb. In Georgian we can change the structure of the sentence and say: „პიცას ვჭამ“ (picas vcham). First is an object and the second is a verb. As a result, translators frequently have to remove and rearrange the sentence structure.

Translating slang is a great challenge. Slang is a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people [11]. It is very difficult to translate slang as it changes very often. And the slang parents used in youth is old for their children. For instance: “Rough night” means *a difficult or tiring night*. “Nut job” means *a crazy person*. For example, *Wow, what a nut job*. “Love child” is a child born to parents who are not married. “Juicy” means sensational or very interesting. For example, *There was a really juicy story about Bill Clinton’s three headed alien love children. Scandalous*. [3, p. 17].

Sometimes cultural issues complicate the translation process. Every culture has its own traditions, habits and other cultural markers. For example, some names which people give to their native things may not be understood by people of other regions or countries. Such words are mainly food words and household things. In this case translators use the definitions. For instance: კაკალა პური (kakala puri) – bread roll, ჩახოხბილი (chakhokhbili) is pheasant (or chicken) barbecued and stewed with onions and tomatoes, ტელაპი -(tklapi) is a fruit roll up or leather skin, ყურუთი – (kuruti) is dry curds, ჯეჯიმი (jejimi) a striped rug etc. So, translation demands a deep understanding of both languages and culture. Translators need to know the rules of a language as well as the habits of the people who speak it [4.4].

Sometimes, the source text may contain some abbreviations and acronyms which are unexplained, so this nuance can also cause some problems, as it takes time to do research on them again.

In addition, according to our observation, we may say that the first main problem in translation is grammar. The grammar rules and sentence formations in all languages are different. That is why when a translator comes to conduct her/his translating activity there should not be any grammatical errors, as translators are always required to be perfect with grammar of the target language.

Translators often face the problems related to the correct and adequate usage of words, which means lexical difference between the cultural and national word units like idioms or set phrases. Usually, translators should have skills to translate all types of texts or speeches because they should

know a lot and they should have at least the general information of any field of social life or science to avoid difficulties while translating. Sometimes translators can face problems related to the source text. It might not be properly written or it might be incomplete, which requires from translators broad imagination and deeper knowledge.

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