

*Lexical, Grammatical and Stylistic Aspects of Translation / Interpreting***Литература**

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*Zaal Kikvidze, Levan Pachulia*  
*Kutaisi – Sukhumi, Georgia*

**George Ellis's 130 English Words  
and Their Equivalents in Caucasian Languages  
(Evidence from his 18<sup>th</sup> c. book)**

In the present paper we describe the lexicographic segment of George Ellis's book *Memoir of a Map of the Countries Comprehended Between the Black Sea and the Caspian; with an Account of the Caucasian Nations, and Vocabularies of Their Languages* (1788). The final part of the book provides specimina of Caucasian languages. This lexicographic segment is divided into six tables. The English wordlist consists of 130 items; they are translated into various Caucasian languages (more exactly, languages of the Caucasus). This is the earliest English-Caucasian lexicographic resource.

*Keywords:* George Ellis, Caucasian languages, vocabularies, wordlists.

In 1788, George Ellis, a Jamaican-born English poet, diplomat and Member of Parliament, published *Memoir of a Map of the Countries Comprehended Between the Black Sea and the Caspian; with an Account of the Caucasian Nations, and Vocabularies of Their Languages* [1]. The book is not voluminous; it contains 84 (iv+80) pages and one map. Similarly to Ellis's another book that appeared a year later [2], it was published anonymously; however, as we already showed it in our previous paper, "it definitely belonged to his pen" [3, p. 451].

The bulk of the book consists of descriptions of various Caucasian peoples. The author informs us about the source and conditions of his choice: "The classification of the inhabitants of Caucasus was communicated to me by Professor Pallas, and is inserted in his own words. Of the districts which he has enumerated, the greater number are to be found on the map; but some have been omitted from want of room, and many others because I was unable to ascertain their position with sufficient accuracy" [1, p. iv]; hence, he goes on to say that "there are in this district of the country at least seven distinct nations, each speaking a separate language, viz. 1. The Tartars. 2 The Abchas. 3. The Circassians. 4. The Ossi, or Osseti. 5. The Kisti. 6. The Lezgians. 7. The Georgians" [1, p. 14].

The descriptions do contain diverse (historical, geographic, ethnographic, etc.) and valuable information about the aforementioned peoples; however, naturally enough, our attention was particularly attracted by the final part of the book, specifically, its lexicographic segment: "Specimen of Caucasian Languages" [1, p. 58]. There are six tables: "Abkhas Language" [1, pp. 58-60], "Circassian of the Cabardas" [1, pp. 61-64], "Ossetian Language" [1, pp. 65-68], "Language of the Kisti" [1, pp. 69-72], "Lesguis Language" [1, pp. 73-76], "Georgian Language" [1, pp. 77-80]. Each table is arranged in the following way: there are 130 English headwords accompanied with translations into 'dialects' of respective languages (it should be noted that Circassian is an exception in this respect as far as no dialect division is presented in the resource).

For the sake of clarity, alongside with other aspects, we should discuss Ellis's glossonyms (language names) and taxonomies. The term "Caucasian languages" is over-extended; as we already stated in our paper on the Megrelian data in Ellis's book, "Ossetian should not be referred to as a Caucasian language because genetically it belongs to the Iranian branch of the Indo-European language family (and not to Ibero-Caucasian); however, since Ossetian is spoken in the Caucasus, it should be referred to as one of the languages of the Caucasus" [3, p. 452]. When addressing individual sub-segments, we observe further glossonymic and taxonomic inconsistencies. The initial one is referred to as "Abkhas;" here, G. Ellis draws two columns:

one for “Altikeseek Dialect” and another for “Cuban Dialect.” What we presently refer to the Abkhaz(ian) language *per se* has no such dialects; however, when one finds out that by *Altikeseek* and *Cuban* he refers to the T’ap’anta and Ashkherewa dialects respectively, it may be assumed that by *Abkhas* he means the Abkhaz-Abaza linguistic continuum, no longer recognized in our days. It is noteworthy that there are only 73 entries in the respective table; all the headwords are translated into the Altikeseek dialect, while 71 are translated into Cuban. In the Preface, the author informs about the underrepresentativeness of Abkhazian: “The different languages, however, are not equally complete: that of the Abkhas, in particular, is extremely defective” [1, p. iv].

The next table is captioned as “Circassian of the Cabardas.” As we have already noted, there is no dialect division. There are 130 entries. All the English headwords are accompanied with Circassian equivalents.

The “Osetian” language (present glossonyms: Ossetian or Ossetic) is presented as having two dialects: “Dialect of Oseti” and “Dialect of Dugor;” he certainly means the Iron and Digor dialects, respectively. There are 130 entries in this sub-segment. All the 130 headwords are translated into the Iron dialect (“Dialect of Oseti”), while equivalents of another one (“Dialect of Dugor”) appear less frequently: only 73 words are translated.

Another branch of the Caucasian languages is presented as “Language of the Kisti.” Actually, *Kisti* is a sub-ethnonym (hence, a glossonym of a dialect variety) to refer to ethnic Chechens living in Pankisi Gorge, Georgia. There are two columns: “Dialect of Chechens” and “Dialect of the Ingushi;” actually, they are the Chechen and Ingush languages. Ingush translations are provided for all the 130 English headwords, while there are Chechen translations only for 127 ones.

The following sub-segment is referred to as “Lesguis Language.” Judging from the shape of the glossonym, it can be easily associated with Lezgian/Lezxic. However, in the respective table it is presented as “Dialects of Antshoug, Dshar, Chunsagh, Dido.” Based on the glossonyms and the provided lexical items, the former three – Antsukh, Char, Khunzakh – are dialects of Avar, a Dagestanian language of the Avar-Andic sub-group, and Dido is an individual Dagestanian language of the Tsezic (Didoic) sub-group. Thus, the taxonomy is in no way consistent; hence, it is inadequate. As for the occurrence of translation equivalents, the numbers are the following: Antsukh – 74, Char – 116, Khunzakh – 86, and Dido – 67.

Finally, there is “Georgian Language” with columns for “Carduel Dialect,” “Imeretian” and “Suaneti Dialect.” Actually, by the term “Georgian,” the author refers to the Kartvelian (resp. South Caucasian) languages, by “Carduel Dialect” – to Georgian language, by “Imeretian” –

to Megrelian language, and by “Suaneti Dialect” – to Svan language.<sup>1</sup> In this table the number of English headwords is 129 (*Whirlwind* is missing); all of them are translated into Georgian (“Carduel”), while only 61 are translated into Megrelian (“Imeretian”) and only 60 into Svan (“Suaneti”).

Normally, such lexicographic data should be addressed from various points of view. One of its most notable aspects is the wordlist. G. Ellis does not hesitate to refer to the source: “The specimen of Caucasian languages is copied from the general vocabulary, compiled by order of the Empress of Russia, the words of which are chosen by herself, and are 130 in number” [1, p. iv]; evidently, he means his immediate source: Volume 1 of *Comparative Dictionaries of All Languages and Dialects* developed by Peter Simon Pallas [4]. The wordlist, the languages and their varieties,<sup>2</sup> their taxonomies, the glossonyms, etc. in Ellis’s resource are copied from this dictionary.

It is also noteworthy that the book, including its lexicographic resource, was soon translated into French. Its descriptive part was expanded considerably; hence, it has multiple authors [5]. Thus, George Ellis’s book became a source for another one. As for the vocabularies of the Caucasian languages (“VOCABULAIRES DES DIALECTES DU MONT CAUCASE”) [5, pp. 61-84], they too are organized into tables, the headwords are French translations of their English counterparts; however, strangely enough, their transliterations are the same as in the English version.

We deliberately neglect another lexicon which was developed based on Pallas’s one; this is a four-volume comparative dictionary compiled by T. Yankovich de Mirievo [6]. The reason for neglect is that, with respect to Caucasian languages, his work does not provide any differences from that of Pallas in terms of quantitative and/or qualitative characteristics of respective data; the only difference is how the dictionary is arranged.

Thus, we have three (Russian, English, French) identical wordlists. The relationships between them will be saliently manifest if we render them into a table:

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<sup>1</sup> Earlier we already commented on these glossonymic inadequacies: “His further terminological blunders (mildly speaking) include the designations “Carduel Dialect” to refer to the Georgian language and, egregiously erroneous, “Imeretian Dialect” not to refer to an actual dialect of Georgian spoken in the province of Imereti but rather to Megrelian, as one of the Kartvelian languages” [3, p. 452].

<sup>2</sup> Actually, more Caucasian languages appear in P.S. Palla’s collection than in that of G. Ellis.

*Table 1. Collated wordlists*

	<b>Peter Simon Pallas (Russian wordlist)</b>	<b>George Ellis (English wordlist)</b>	<b>George Ellis (French wordlist)</b>
1.	БОГЪ	God	Dieu
2.	НЕБО	Heaven	Ciel
3.	ОТЕЦЪ	Father	Père
4.	МАТЬ	Mother	Mère
5.	СЫНЪ	Son	Fils
6.	ДОЧЬ	Daughter	Fille
7.	БРАТЪ	Brother	Frère
8.	СЕСТРА	Sister	Sœur
9.	МУЖЪ	Husband	Mari
10.	ЖЕНА	Wife	Femme
11.	ДЪВА	Girl	Fille
12.	МАЛЬЧИКЪ	Boy	Garçon
13.	ДИТЯ	Child	Enfant
14.	ЧЕЛОВЪКЪ	Man	Homme
15.	ЛЮДИ	People	Peuple
16.	ГОЛОВА	Head	Tête
17.	ЛИЦО	Face	Visage
18.	НОСЪ	Nose	Nez
19.	НОЗДРИ	Nostril	Narine
20.	ГЛАСЪ	Eye	Œil
21.	БРОВИ	Eyebrow	Sourcil
22.	РЕСНИЦЫ	Eyelashes	Coups-de'œil
23.	УХО	Ear	Oreille
24.	ЛОБЪ	Forehead	Front
25.	ВОЛОСЪ	Hair	Cheveux
26.	ЩОКИ	Cheeks	Joues
27.	РОТЪ	Mouth	Bouche
28.	ГОРЛО	Throat	Gorge
29.	ЗУБЪ	Teeth	Dents
30.	ЯЗЫКЪ	Tongue	Langue
31.	БОРОДА	Beard	Barbe
32.	ШЕЯ	Neck	Cou
33.	ПЛЕЧО	Shoulder	Epaule
34.	ЛОКОТЬ	Elbow	Coude
35.	РУКА	Hand	Main

36.	ПАЛЫЦЫ	Fingers	Doigts
37.	НОГТИ	Nails	Ongles
38.	БРЮХО	Belly	Ventre
39.	СПИНА	Back	Dos
40.	НОГА	Foot	Pied
41.	КОЛЪНО	Knee	Genou
42.	КОЖА	Skin	Peau
43.	МЯСО	Flesh	Chair
44.	КОСТЬ	Bone	Os
45.	КРОВЬ	Blood	Sang
46.	СЕРДЦЕ	Heart	Cœur
47.	МОЛОКО	Milk	Lait
48.	СЛУХЪ	Hearing	L'ouïe
49.	ЗРЪНИЕ	Sight	La vue
50..	ВКУСЪ	Taste	Le goût
51.	ОБОНЯНИЕ	Smelling	L'odorat
52.	ОСЯЗАНИЕ	Feeling	Le toucher
53.	ГОЛОСЪ	Voice	La voix
54.	ИМЯ	Name	Nom
55.	КРИКЪ	Cry	Cris
56.	ШУМЪ	Noise	Bruit
57.	ВОПЛЬ	Clamour	Clameur
58.	СЛОВО	Word	Parole
59.	СОНЪ	Sleep	Sommeil
60.	ЛЮБОВЬ	Love	Amour
61.	БОЛЬ	Pain	Douler
62.	ТРУДЪ	Toil	Peine
63.	РАБОТА	Work	Travail
64.	СИЛА	Force	Force
65.	МОЧЬ	Power	Pouvoir
66.	ВЛАСТЬ	Authority	Autorité
67.	БРАКЪ	Marriage	Mariage
68.	ЖИЗНЬ	Life	Vie
69.	РОСТЪ	Stature	Stature
70.	ДУХЪ	Spirit	Esprit
71.	СМЕРТЬ	Death	Mort
72.	СТУЖА	Cold	Froid
73.	КРУГЪ	Circle	Cercle
74.	ШАРЪ	Globe	Globe

75.	СОЛНЦЕ	Sun	Soleil
76.	МЪСЯЦЪ	Moon	Lune
77.	ЗВЪЗДА	Star	Etoile
78.	ЛУЧЪ	Ray	Rayon
79.	ВЪТРЪ	Wind	Vent
80.	ВИХРЪ	Whirlwind	Tourbillon
81.	БУРЯ	Storm	Tempête
82.	ДОЖДЪ	Rain	Pluie
83.	ГРАДЪ	Hail	Grêle
84.	МОЛНИЯ	Lightning	Éclair
85.	СНЪГЪ	Snow	Neige
86.	ЛЕДЪ	Ice	Glace
87.	ДЕНЪ	Day	Jour
88.	НОЧЪ	Night	Nuit
89.	УТРО	Morning	Matin
90.	ВЕЧЕРЪ	Evening	Soir
91.	ЛЪТО	Summer	Été
92.	ВЕСНА	Spring	Printemps
93.	ОСЕНЬ	Autumn	Automne
94.	ЗИМА	Winter	Hiver
95.	ГОДЪ	Year	An
96.	ВРЕМЯ	Time	Tems
97.	ЗЕМЛЯ	Earth	Terre
98.	ВОДА	Water	Eau
99.	МОРЕ	Sea	Mer
100.	РЪКА	River	Rivière
101.	ВОЛНЫ	Waves	Vagues
102.	ПЕСОКЪ	Sand	Sable
103.	ГЛИНА	Clay	Argille
104.	ПЫЛЬ	Dust	Poussière
105.	ГРЯЗЬ	Dirt	Ordure
106.	ГОРА	Mountain	Montagne
107.	БЕРЕГЪ	Coast	Côte
108.	ХОЛМЪ	Hill	Colline
109.	ДОЛИНА	Valley	Vallée
110.	ВОЗДУХЪ	Air	Air
111.	ПАРЪ	Vapour	Vapeur
112.	ОГОНЬ	Fire	Feu
113.	ЖАРЪ	Heat	Chaleur

114.	ГЛУБИНА	Depth	Profunder
115.	ВЫСОТА	Height	Hauteur
116.	ШИРИНА	Breadth	Largeur
117.	ДЛИНА	Length	Longueur
118.	ДИРА [ДЫРА]	Hole	Trou
119.	ЯМА	Pit	Fossr
120.	РОВЪ	Ditch	Fossé
121.	КАМЕНЬ	Stone	Pierre
122.	ЗОЛОТО	Gold	Or
123.	СЕРЕБРО	Silver	Argent
124.	СОЛЬ	Salt	Sel
125.	ЧУДО	Miracle	Miracle
126.	ЛЪСЪ	Forest	Forêt
127.	ТРАВА	Grass	Herbe
128.	ДЕРЕВО	Tree	Arbre
129.	КОЛЪ	Pole	Perche
130.	ЗЕЛЕНЬ	Verdure	Verdure

Ellis's transliteration conventions are not bizarre; the pertaining rules can be readily identified as it was done in our paper about the Megrelian data [3, pp. 455-456]. However, they are not always adequate. Here is how he comments on related difficulties: "In copying the vocabularies, it has not always been in my power to express in English letters the sound conveyed by the original, because the Russian alphabet has signs for some vowels which we cannot pronounce, and because we have no uniform method of expressing even those vowels which are to be found in our own language" [1, p. iv]. The statement is rather unexpected because, whenever Caucasian languages are concerned, usually it is a diversity of consonants that produces more problems for their student. For instance, in rendering Ellis's Megrelian data "we see no distinctions between aspirated and ejective stops, and between aspirated and ejective affricates" [3, p. 456], nothing to say about other, more complicated distinctions in consonantal systems of various Caucasian languages. Hence, some of the lexical items could hardly be identified even by a native speaker.

Alongside with transliteration errors, there are a number of translation inadequacies. Almost all of them should be associated with their immediate source(s). Notwithstanding these and other obvious shortcomings, George Ellis's work should be valued for a number of reasons, first and foremost, for its being the earliest English-Caucasian lexicographic resource.



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*Наталья Козлова*

*г. Санкт-Петербург, Российская Федерация*

### **Неологизмы как особая лексическая категория языка и сложности их перевода**

The article deals with the study of neologisms at the present stage of the development of the English and Russian languages. Their classification and methods of translation are given. The concept of the term “neologism” is considered. Attention is paid to the translation of non-equivalent neologisms. The influence of extralinguistic factors on the translation of neologisms is mentioned.

*Keywords:* neologisms, classification, vocabulary expansion, methods of translation, difficulties of translation.

Проблема перевода неологизмов всегда вызывает множество трудностей в практике специалистов с незапамятных времен, ибо при переводе требуется понимание того, что язык трансформируется, идет в ногу со временем, а, следовательно, в речь входят новые слова и выражения, словосочетания и термины, сокращения и аббревиатуры, о которых следует знать, учитывать их лингвистические и экстралингвистические факторы.

Как известно, активный словарный языковой запас содержит, в основном, повседневно используемые слова, которые лишены

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