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PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF TRANSLATING SPECIALIZED TERMINOLOGY

Rustamova Feruzabonu Ilkhomovna
French Teacher of the Department of
French Philology of Bukhara State University
f.i.rustamova@buxdu.uz

Amrullayeva Zarina Asliddinnovna
Student of Bukhara State University

Abstract:

This article examines the key principles and methods involved in the translation of specialized terminology in scientific and technical texts. It emphasizes that terminological translation requires not only linguistic competence but also a deep understanding of the underlying concepts. The study highlights the importance of conceptual equivalence, terminological accuracy, and communicative functionality as fundamental principles guiding the translation process. It also discusses various translation methods such as literal translation, calque, borrowing, transposition, and descriptive translation, which are applied depending on the context and the availability of equivalents in the target language. Particular attention is given to challenges such as terminological polysemy, the lack of direct equivalents, and the continuous evolution of scientific terminology.

Keywords: Specialized terminology, translation principles, conceptual equivalence, terminological accuracy, communicative functionality, translation methods, calque, borrowing, transposition, descriptive translation, scientific translation

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Translating specialized terminology is one of the most challenging aspects of translating scientific, technical, and professional texts. Unlike translating everyday speech, specialized translation requires a high degree of terminological accuracy, as each term denotes a specific concept related to a specific field. In this context, the translator does not simply translate words; they must ensure the accurate transfer of concepts between the source and target languages. Therefore, studying the principles and methods of translating specialized terminology is essential for understanding the mechanisms that ensure effective communication in scientific and technical fields.

One of the fundamental principles of terminological translation is the principle of conceptual equivalence. When translating specialized texts, the translator must ensure that the term used in the target language corresponds to the same concept expressed in the source language. This equivalence is based not only on the lexical similarity of words but also on the correspondence of the concepts they express. According to Peter Newmark, terminological translation first and foremost requires a precise understanding of the concept expressed in the source language, so that the most appropriate equivalent can then be found in the target language.

However, if the conceptual systems of two languages do not fully coincide, finding terminological equivalence can be difficult. In some cases, the target language may lack a direct equivalent for a source language concept. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in scientific and technical fields, where innovation and institutional differences lead to the emergence of concepts specific to particular cultures or professional systems. In such situations, the translator must employ a variety of translation strategies to accurately and effectively convey the meaning of the term.

Another important principle for translating specialized terms is terminological accuracy. In scientific and technical texts, the correct use of terms is essential to avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation. Terms should be used consistently

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throughout the text, and their translation should comply with the terminological norms of the relevant field. As Jean-Paul Vinet and Jean Darbelnet note, specialized translation requires particular rigor, since even the slightest terminological inaccuracy can alter the meaning of the source text.

In addition to accuracy, terminological translation must take into account the principle of communicative functionality. The goal of translation is not only to convey the linguistic form of the source term but also to ensure the correct understanding of the expressed concept by the target language reader. In some cases, adapting or reformulating a term may be necessary to improve the comprehensibility of the text for the target audience.

In the field of specialized translation, a number of methods and techniques are used to convey scientific and technical terms. These methods have been studied by many translation researchers, including Vinay and Darbelnet, who identified several widely used translation techniques. One of the simplest methods is literal translation. This method involves directly transferring a term into the target language while preserving its lexical and grammatical structure, and it is effective when the concepts and structures in both languages are equivalent.

Literal translation is possible when the linguistic structures of the two languages are similar and the concept expressed by the term exists in the target language. For example, some scientific or technical terms can be translated literally if their lexical elements have direct equivalents in both languages.

Another common method is calque (literal translation). Calque involves translating the constituent elements of a term while preserving its original structure. This method is often used to create new scientific and technical terms, especially when the target language borrows terminological structures from the source language. Calque helps enrich a language's specialized vocabulary by introducing new terms inspired by foreign languages.

Borrowing is also an important strategy for translating specialized terms. In this case, the source term is transferred to the target language, sometimes with

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phonetic or orthographic adaptation. This method is often used in scientific and technical fields because many international terms are used in different languages without translation.

However, using borrowed terms is not always advisable. In some cases, using a borrowed term can hinder the comprehension of the text for readers of the target language. Therefore, the translator must evaluate the appropriateness of this method in each specific case and, if necessary, resort to other translation methods. Another important strategy is transposition. This method involves changing the grammatical category of a term during translation. For example, a term expressed as a noun in the source language can be rendered in the target language using a verb or adjective. Transposition allows the linguistic form of the term to be adapted to the grammatical norms of the target language while preserving its meaning.

In some cases, a translator may resort to adaptation or descriptive translation. This method is used when a concept expressed in the source language is absent from the target language. In such situations, the translator explains the meaning of the term using a descriptive expression that allows the reader to understand its meaning. Although this method requires more time than others, it may be necessary to ensure proper understanding of the concept.

Translating specialized terms also presents difficulties caused by terminological polysemy. Some scientific terms can have multiple meanings depending on their field of use. For example, the same term may have different meanings in medicine, computer science, or economics. In such cases, the translator must carefully analyze the context to determine the correct meaning.

Another important issue is the constant evolution of scientific and technical terminology. Due to the rapid advancement of knowledge in various fields, new terms regularly emerge. Therefore, translators must stay abreast of terminological innovations and use specialized sources to verify the correct use of terms.

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In this context, the use of terminological resources is an important stage of specialized translation. Translators can consult specialized dictionaries, terminological databases, technical glossaries, and scientific corpora to verify the meaning and usage of terms in a specific field. These resources help ensure terminological consistency and improve the quality of translation.

Thus, the translation of scientific and technical terms is based on a number of principles and methods aimed at ensuring the conceptual accuracy and communicative functionality of the translated text. The translator must combine linguistic, terminological, and subject-matter knowledge to select the most appropriate translation strategy for each specific situation.

Therefore, an analysis of the principles and methods of translating specialized terminology allows for a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying the translation of scientific and technical texts. This theoretical analysis serves as a necessary foundation for studying the specific difficulties of translating social science terms from French into Uzbek, which will be discussed in subsequent articles.

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