

TRANSLATION OF REALIA: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

It is a well-known fact, that the culture of each nation is unique. Along with the universal values and concepts which are incorporated in it, there are those that are unique and can't be found in the cultures of other peoples. These unique objects and traits that stand authenticity of a particular culture are called realia. The phenomenon is of a particular interest for translators, since they serve as intermediaries in the process of intercultural communication.

The translator has to deal with the linguistic realia of a particular country, and its social and cultural characteristics. When faced with such difficult-to-translate text elements, it is necessary to find equivalents in the target language.

According to S. Vlachov, the realia are words or phrases that name objects, concepts and phenomena typical for the life (geographical environment, everyday life, culture, historical development) of one nation, but foreign to another [1].

Every language embraces many realia, so it is important to classify them.

Classification of the realia proposed by V.S. Vinogradov is as follows:

1. Domestic realia: (housing, property; clothes; food, drinks; types of labour and occupation; banknotes, units of measurement; musical instruments, folk dances and songs; folk holidays, games);
2. Ethnographic and mythological realia: (ethnic and social communities and their representatives; deities, fabulous creatures, outstanding places);
3. The realia of nature: (animals, plants; landscape);
4. The realia of the administrative bodies and public life: (state institutions, administrative units; public organizations; industrial and agricultural enterprises, commercial establishments; military and police units; professions and titles) [2].

There are certain difficulties in translating realia. Among them are:

1. The lack of an equivalent in the target language;
2. The need to transmit the national and historical coloring of the concept;

Techniques for translating realia are:

1. Transcription (transmits the feature of the realia, but at the same time the meaning of the word is usually lost);
2. Translation (transmits the meaning of the realia, but at the same time the feature of the concept under description is often lost).

The choice of realia transmission is not arbitrary. When making their choice, the translator is to rely on a number of factors. In order to transmit the realia properly, it is necessary to understand the main feature of the realia depicted in the work.

Thus, the language is a reflection of the culture. In any culture, there are specific concepts that are unique. Due to the variety of realia, there is a need for their classification. There are two main difficulties in the transmission of realia: the lack of correspondence in the target language and the need to transmit not only the meaning of the word, but also to render national and historical coloring adequately.

References

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2. Виноградов, В. С. Лексические вопросы перевода художественной прозы [Текст]: учеб. пособие / В. С. Виноградов. — М: Изд-во МГУ, 1978. — 87с.