Tsimafeyeva-Moran Yu.V.
Belarusian National Technical University,
Minsk, Belarus

KEY POINTS ON TRANSLATING TECHNICAL TEXTS

Today, when preparing students of technical specialties, great importance is attached to the study of foreign languages and technical translations. Translation is to "convey the information contained in a given speech by means of another language" [1, p. 316]. Technical translation occupies a significant place in the development of an overseas experience, it is widely used in the work of various enterprises, companies and research institutes. Therefore, it is important to teach students how to read, understand, and translate scientific and technical literature competently, and to familiarize them with the specific nuances of translating terms.

Universities do not train technical translators. A technical translator must educate himself and develop his own skills in order to write accurate translations. Good linguistic skills and knowledge in a specific technical field are not enough to perform a high-quality translation. A technical translator must also have logical thinking, curiosity, observation, and self-criticism.

When teaching translation, the main focus should be on how to accurately translate and express the ideas of the original text's language into the required language. Difficulties in understanding a foreign text and in translation are phenomena of a completely different order. It is quite common that an English phrase's idea can be understood, however translating and accurately conveying the idea is more difficult. It is easier for a student to retell it in his own words than to translate it.

Therefore, some strict requirements should be followed:

1. While respecting the accuracy of the translation, the student must convey all the elements of the text.

2. He should not ad-lib. If there are any doubts about the correctness, translate as closely as possible to the text.

3. The student should also avoid absurdities and meaningless phrases.

4. It is extremely important to pay attention to dates and numbers.

5. The student must adhere to the general meaning of the text so that individual sentences do not contradict it.

6. It should always be remembered that the key role in translation is played by the meaning of the word and the meaning of the semantic context.

7. Be sure to read materials on the topic, to gain general terms.

8. Avoid flowery language and strictly adhere to the terminology.

Engineers have poor knowledge of foreign languages, a disregard for dictionaries, a subjective attitude towards the translated text, and an overestimation of the quality of their own translation.

Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for students of technical specialties to first of all, rely on logic and context, and then on the dictionary; strive for the most accurate choice of words; analyze a sentence both syntactically and logically; eliminate English conciseness and implicitness; use the dictionary at the slightest uncertainty in the translation of the term; read scientific and technical literature in Russian; not to take on a completely unfamiliar topic.

A high-quality technical translation is determined by the author's desire for sufficient information and a detailed statement. At the grammar level of English, there is the use of complex extended sentences, which are characterized by an abundance of non-personal verb forms, the frequency of passive constructions, and the use of specific syntactic models. At the lexical level, it is customary to distinguish an abundance of terms, a high proportion of official words, and the frequency of introductory constructions. The correct translation of a sentence is primarily determined by the correct translation of technical terms. By “term” we

will mean “a word or a phrase of a language for specific purposes, created (borrowed) to accurately express special concepts and designate special objects” [1, p. 474]. If the required term is missing from the dictionary, then the translator needs to create an equivalent for the non-equivalent term. The reason for the prevalence of non-equivalent terms is the spread of scientific and technological achievements, and hence the discrepancy between the conceptual systems of the two languages. The problem of constructing an equivalent term can be solved by translating using a lexical equivalent (transcription, transliteration, loan translation, descriptive translation), as well as through linguistic concretization and generalization. B. N. Klimzo finds these translation methods incomplete, since constructing an exact equivalent of a term requires a fairly thorough analysis of the context and in-depth knowledge of scientific and technical topics [2].

Incorrect choice of a term often leads to unpleasant consequences. The degree of responsibility for errors and inaccuracies in the translation of technical terms is very high. Errors in an inaccurate translation of a technical term may result not only in a misunderstanding of the meaning of a scientific and technical text, but also in a distortion of the text itself. As a result, this can cause incorrect repairs of technical devices and their breakdown. Therefore, the duty of translators who specialize in and have the appropriate technical education or significant translation experience is technical translation.

References

1. Akhmanova, O. S. Dictionary of linguistic terms / O. S. Akhmanova. – 2nd ed. – M. : Editorial URSS, 2004. – 571 p.

2. Klimzo, B. N. Craft of a technical translator. About the English language, translation and translators of scientific and technical literature / B. N. Klimzo. – 2nd ed., rev. and add. – M. : R.Valent, 2006. – 508 p.