TRANSLATION OF LANGUAGE MEANS REPRESENTING THE NON-VERBAL COMPONENT “SMILE” IN ENGLISH LITERARY TEXTS

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The paper is dedicated to the study of language means representing the non-verbal component “smile” in English literary texts as well as to the ways of their translation into Ukrainian. In the article the authors outline typical features of the smile as a universal non-verbal sign of communication, viewed as an indicator of the speaker’s emotional and psychological states. Having analyzed the functional role of a smile in communication, which directly affects the specificity of its nomination in literary texts, the authors systematize the language means of its representation in English. They come to a conclusion that depending on a type of the communicative situation “the smile” can render a range of emotive and evaluative shades of meanings, verbalized in the text by means of combining lexical units of primary and secondary nominations. As a result of the study of text fragments containing nominations of the non-verbal component “smile” the authors generalize the ways of their translation into Ukrainian, identifying the following transformations as the most frequent ones: word-for-word translation, grammatical replacement, modulation. The paper also substantiates the expediency of defining the correlation between emotive potential of different nominations of “smile” in English literary texts and their translations into Ukrainian.

Keywords: non-verbal communication, non-verbal components, smile, language means, translation, transformations, literary text.

Introduction. The present day development of linguistics is characterized by a growing interest in the study of patterns and mechanisms representing emotions and feelings in language and speech (D. Bolinger, A. Kalyta, E. Nushykyan, V. Shakhovskiy). It has been shown by numerous research papers in the field of emotiology, communicative linguistics and non-verbal semiotics (P. Ekman, I. Gorelov, L. Kozyarevych, G. Kreydlin, I. Seryakova, A. Wierzbicka and others) that non-verbal components of communication are effective and objective indicators of the speaker’s emotional and psychological states as well as are the means influencing the interlocutor in the course of verbal interaction.

Thus, it is quite natural that the study of language nomination of the speaker’s non-verbal behavior, including the nomination of a smile as a universal sign of non-verbal communication with its inherent emotional and pragmatic features, is gaining its recognition in the sphere of linguistics. This proves the topicality of a special research of various aspects of linguistic representation of non-verbal behavior as an emotionally and pragmatically informative component of communication.

Therefore, the aim of our paper is to define the language means representing the non-verbal component of communication “smile” in English literary texts as well as identify the ways of their translation into Ukrainian.

Defining the characteristic features of the smile as a non-verbal communication component. The analysis of the stated issue was performed in compliance with the definition of non-verbal means as the elements of communicative code which, being of a non-verbal symbolic nature, alongside with the verbal means serve generation, transmission and perception of messages [1, p. 59]. We also
considered the idea that the leading facial sign of communication is the smile, traditionally treated as a non-verbal expression of emotions [6, p. 3], actualized by means of raising the lip corners at an angle toward the cheekbones [8, p. 150; 3, p. 351].

It should also be noted that the current studies of the non-verbal behavior are carried out from the standpoint of communicative-and-pragmatic approach that requires, in our case, the analysis of nature and functionality of the smile in communication which directly affects the specificity of its nomination in English literary texts.

The results of research of facial expressions [3, p. 165] allowed the author to define the smile as a non-verbal emotive sign capable of conveying all fundamental human emotions and feelings, primarily positive ones, as well as a marker of communicants’ interpersonal relations. In other words, its basic function is defined as the emotive one. Among other smile functions the scholars (see [6, p. 11]) single out the communicative one, i.e. the ability of a smile to transmit additional information, in particular about the interlocutor, as well as the regulatory function that serves to establish and maintain social interaction between people.

Thus, depending on the specificity of its functional role, the smile in different communicative situations can acquire a number of emotional and pragmatic shades of meanings, commonly differentiated into the following varieties [8, p. 150-160]: joyful, miserable, dampened, flirtatious, derogatory, sad, shy, qualifying, false, spiteful, and so on. At the same time, it is believed that the semantic invariant of a smile is a genuine and uncontrolled pleasure (i.e. enjoyment smile) [8, p. 151], which is also termed as a kineme of joy [4, p. 170]. In order to express the smile’s variant meanings, in the process of communicative interaction its actualization is accompanied by a number of other facial gestures, which find their nominative presentation with the help of corresponding lexical means.

Language means representing the non-verbal component “smile” in a literary text. It becomes clear that in order to reflect in a literary text a real-life oral communication, the author resorts to various verbal means that convey non-verbal semiotics, thus expressing emotions through language signs. In other words, a linguistic representation of a smile as a universal phenomenon is realized through a specific set of language means.

Thus, the language means representing the non-verbal communicative sign “smile” comprise the “fixed in the language system and reflected in lexicography” [6, p. 7] smile nominations that adequately reproduce its scope of meanings in a literary text.

The analysis of lexicographical sources and English literary texts containing a non-verbal component “smile” enables us to present its invariant nomination structure as follows: to curve the corners of one’s mouth upward (the form of a non-verbal component) + to express amusement, pleasure or happiness (the meaning of a non-verbal component) [9, p. 919]. This smile nomination is realized in literary texts with the help of synonymous series of verbs (e.g.: to smile, to grin, to smirk; to laugh, to giggle, etc.) and nouns (smile, grin, smirk; laugh, giggle, etc.), whose meanings correspond to the given nomination structure.

The analysis of English literary texts showed that smile nominations expressed by nouns can be modified in communication on the basis of the verb dependency through the syntactic process of deployment, i.e. a merging of two or more elements, one being syntactically dominant and the other – syntactically dependent [5, p. 60].
We believe that even though this modification shifts the noun-nomination of a smile into a syntactically dependent position, it still retains its status of the semantic core. Considering this, it seems possible to single out a special group of derivative language means naming the non-verbal component “smile”. These nominations are qualified as fixed in the language system and registered in dictionaries language units reflecting the form and meaning of a smile. This group of language means includes:

1) phrasal verb expressions: (a) with the verbs of “an abstracted indirect meaning” [4, p. 122], e.g.: to have a smile, to have a grin, to give a grin, to have a laugh, to give a laugh, etc.; (b) prepositional verb phrases, e.g.: to shriek with laughter, to roar with laughter, to shake with laughter, etc.; (c) verb phrases without prepositions, e.g.: to crack a smile, to flash a smile, to produce a smile, to utter a laugh etc.;

2) idiomatic verb expressions, e.g.: to break into a smile, to break into laugh, to let out laugh, to burst out laughing, etc.

3) tautological (to smile a smile, to grin a grin, to laugh a laugh, etc.) and semi-tautological verb phrases (to smile a grin, to smile a smirk, to beam a smile, etc.). In such nominations the verb loses its meaning, while the noun retains its role of a semantic center of the expression, since it functions as an action specifier, e.g.: Beatty smiled his smile which showed the candy pinkness of his gums and the tiny candy whiteness of his teeth [11, p. 27].

A so-called non-special linguistic means representing “the smile” in English literary texts belong to the units of secondary nominations [6, p. 7-8] that characterize its shape and do not contain any of the above mentioned special linguistic units denoting a smile. They are formed according to the structural model V + N, where V signifies a verb that conveys a non-verbal action, and N designates a noun indicating the organ which generates the non-verbal action (in our case, lip, lips, mouth). Considering the feature of “the organ producing a non-verbal action”, it is possible to single out the following language means that represent “the smile”:

1) phrases, containing the lexical unit “lips (lip)”, e.g.: to curl one’s lips, to curve (the corners of) one’s lip (lips), to turn up one’s lips, to turn (the corners of) one’s lips upward, to upturn one’s lips;

2) phrases, comprising the lexical unit “mouth”, e.g.: to curl (the corners of) one’s mouth (upward), to curve (the corners of) one’s mouth (upward), to turn up one’s mouth, to turn one’s mouth upward;

3) phrases, including the lexical unit “teeth”, e.g.: to show one’s teeth, to bare one’s teeth, to expose one’s teeth, which mainly denote negative emotions, probably, due to the existence of correlation between a smile origin and an animal grin (i.e. the demonstration of teeth) [3, p. 174], viewed as a sign of an aggressive state. Such phrases can serve as a metonymical indication of anger because of the relation with aggressive behavior of animals, for example: He was still grinning, and dark blood oozed slowly through the grin and slipped down the line of his jaw. He bared his teeth at her [13, p. 215].

As it is shown above, in a language system there is a wide range of language means representing the smile. At the same time, the scope of its meanings is far larger due to the immense variety of speech situations in which the smile can occur [7, p. 9]. This leads to the emergence of new smile nominations formed by modifications or combination of the described above units of the smile representation in language,
e.g.: a trace of a smile, a touch of a smile, the ghost of a smile, the contortion of a smile, the hint of a smile, a shout of laughter, a fit of laughter, the travesty of a smile and others. Such nominations that characterize the intensity, manner or nature of the smile usually specify the pragmatic loading of its expression, e.g.: He suddenly realized that it was the first endearment that he had used to Lucy for many a long and miserable day. Lucy noticed it, too: she willed up a travesty of a smile [12, p. 47].

It should also be mentioned that speech representations of the smile can be rendered with the help of prepositional noun complexes, such as with a smile (grin, laugh, etc.), whose function is to give emotional evaluation of the described action, for example: “I been shouted at before,” the driver said with a grin [13, p. 205]; Mildred snatched the book with a laugh [11, p. 48].

The carried out analysis of the language means representing the non-verbal component “smile” in English literary texts demonstrates that depending on a type of the communicative situation it can render a wide range of evaluative and pragmatic shades of meanings, verbalized in the text by means of combining lexical units of primary and secondary nominations.

**Ways of translating the language means representing the non-verbal component “smile”**. The study of non-verbal nominations from the standpoint of communicative-and-functional approach requires performing the analysis of language designations of “the smile” in literary texts in terms of determining the patterns of its reproduction in Ukrainian translations.

As is known, the process of translation of the original text into the target language involves the use of a set of successive operations, identified as transformations. While carrying out the study of “smile” nominations and the ways of their translations we see it expedient to analyze the following accepted in translation studies transformations: word-for-word translation, antonymic translation, grammatical replacement, specification, generalization, modulation and compensation.

As a result of the analysis of 153 English text fragments and their Ukrainian translations containing a non-verbal communication component “smile”, we can state the following. The predominant number of smile nominations (46%) was translated by means of a word-for-word translation (or a null transformation), i.e. when a syntactic structure of the source language is replaced by the similar structure of the target language, for example: Instead he was smiling at a rather severe looking woman [14, p. 10]. – Натомість він усміхався радше суворій на вигляд жінці [10, p. 10].

The compensation method was registered as the second in rate (16%). The specificity of this method consists in the fact that some lexical items denoting “the smile” are lost in the process of translation and are rendered in the target text in a different way and not necessarily in the same place as in the original text [2, p. 173]. Thus, in the example given below the violation of a norm in the English text not being observed in Ukrainian translation is compensated by using a completely different language form: “I’m going to play,” he told Ron and Hermione. “If I don’t, all the Slytherins will think I’m just too scared to face Snape. I’ll show them... it’ll really wipe the smiles off their faces if we win” [14, p. 90]. – Я буду грати, – сказав він Ронові й Герміоні. – Бо інакше всі слизеринці подумають, що я боюся того Снейпа. Я покажу їм! Коли ми переможемо, їм буде не до сміху! [10, p. 95].
The analysis has also shown frequent cases (12%) of translating the smile nominations through various grammatical replacements. In the texts under study we registered the following most typical grammatical replacements: (a) the replacement of a noun by a verb, e.g.: “You shouldn’t be inside on a day like this” he said, with an odd, twisted smile [14, p. 109]. – Такого гарного дня не варто сидіти в замку, – сказав він, кришо посміхаючись [10, p. 114]; (b) the replacement of an adjective by an adverb, e.g.: “Ooooooh!” he said with an evil cackle. “Ickle Firsties! What fun!” [14, p. 53]. – О-о-о-о-о! – протягнув він, диховісно посміхаючись. – Малючки-першачки! Яка радість! [10, p. 57].

It has been established that “smile” nominations in English literary texts are rather often translated into Ukrainian with the help of modulation (11%), or semantic development. In this case the word or phrase denoting “the smile” in the source language is replaced in the target language by the unit whose emotive and pragmatic value is derived from the unit used in the original text, as in the example: “Oh, I will,” said Harry, and they were surprised at the grin that was spreading over his face [14, p. 126]. – О, так! – сказав Гаррі, і Рон з Герміою здивовано побачили, що він усміхається [10, p. 130].

In the course of analysis we also registered some cases of generalization (6%) and specification (5%) as the methods to translate “smile” nominations. It should be mentioned that these two transformations are quite opposite. The first one consists in replacing a particular concept with a more general one. As a rule, it is used when the target language lacks a word with a specific meaning to denote “the smile”, e.g.: “Still famous,” said Ron, grinning at him [14, p. 304]. – Ти, як завжди, популярний! – підсміхнувся Рон. [10, p. 317]. The method of specification, in its turn, is applied when a word or phrase in the source language, having a general meaning is translated into the target language with a word of a more specific value, e.g.: Malfoy smiled nastily [14, p. 145]. – Мелфой огідно вишкірився [10, p. 155].

The use of antonymic translation of “smile” nominations was the least frequent (4%) probably because it is not conventional to render the meaning of “the smile” by a lexical unit with the opposite meaning. The registered cases of antonymic translation refer only to the use of opposite syntactic structures of the sentence, i.e. the use of the affirmative or interrogative structure instead of negation, or vice versa, e.g.: Something about the smile lurking on Malfoy’s face during the next week made Harry, Ron, and Hermione very nervous [14, p. 96]. – Якась подоба посмішки, що не сходила з Мелфосового обличчя впродовж наступного тижня, постійно тримала в напрузі Гаррі, Рона та Герміону [10, p. 98].

Conclusions. The carried out analysis of the language means representing the non-verbal component of communication “smile” in English literary texts proves that the smile as a non-verbal sign can convey a scope of emotive and evaluative meanings conditioned by a number of extra-linguistic factors and a definite communicative situation. These shades of meanings are verbalized in the text with the help of combinations of lexical units of primary and secondary nominations.

The performed analysis verifies the complexity of adequate and correct translation of the non-verbal component of communication “smile” represented in English literary texts into Ukrainian. The study of text fragments containing the non-verbal sign “smile” testifies the frequent use in their Ukrainian translations of the
following transformations: word-for-word translation, antonymic translation, grammatical replacement, specification, generalization, modulation and compensation.

We believe that within our further research it is expedient to outline the specificity of interrelation between the emotive and pragmatic potentials of different nominations of “smile” in English literary texts and their translations as well as define the role these units perform in creating the text expressiveness.

REFERENCES


ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL


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Л. І. Тараненко, А. І. Мариніна. Переклад мовних засобів відображення невербального компонента «посмішка» в англомовних художніх текстах.

Статтю присвячено вивченню мовних засобів відображення невербального компонента комунікації «посмішка» в англомовних художніх текстах, а також установленню способів їх перекладу на українську мову. За результатами аналізу лексикографічного та ілюстративного матеріалів здійснено розгляд специфіки номінації посмішки як універсального невербального знака комунікації з притаманними йому номінативними, емотивними і прагматичними особливостями, систематизовано мовні засоби позначення «посмішки» в англомовному художньому тексті, а також узагальнено способи їх перекладу на українську мову. Обґрунтовано доцільність подальшого дослідження особливостей перекладу невербального компонента комунікації «посмішка» на українську мову з урахуванням емоційно-прагматичного потенціалу його номінацій в англомовних художніх текстах.

Ключові слова: невербальна комунікація, невербальні компоненти, посмішка, мовні засоби, переклад, трансформація, художній текст.

Л. І. Тараненко, А. І. Мариніна. Перевод лингвистичних средств отображения невербального компонента «улыбка» в англоязычных художественных текстах.

Статью посвящена изучению языковых средств отображения невербального компонента коммуникации «улыбка» в англоязычных художественных текстах, а также установленнию способов их перевода на украинский язык. По результатам анализа лексикографического и иллюстративного материалов осуществлено рассмотрение спецификации номинации улыбки как универсального невербального знака коммуникации с присущими ему номинационными, эмотивными и прагматическими особенностями, систематизированы языковые средства, обозначающие «улыбку» в англоязычном художественном тексте, а также обобщены способы их перевода на украинский язык. Обоснована целесообразность дальнейшего исследования особенностей перевода невербального компонента коммуникации «улыбка» на украинский язык с учетом эмоционально-прагматического потенциала его номинаций в англоязычных художественных текстах.

Ключевые слова: невербальная коммуникация, невербальные компоненты, улыбка, языковые средства, перевод, трансформации, художественный текст.