

Techniques of Simile Rendering

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ABSTRACT

Analysis of the features of translational procedures and rendering meanings from English into Russian languages is urgent and up-to-date. The history of English literature is very rich with fictions, novels, poems, prose and other genres of literature. Particularly, rendering the exact meaning of those belles-lettres to other cultures is as well important. Authors use similes as one type of figures of speech in their works to show the beauty, give the aesthetic view of the imaginative picture. This world picture gives the readers to feel what author longs to say. Every author has different constructions of similes and this gives the translators to find the generic principle of all types of similes. The aim of writing the article is to determine the different types of simile rendering, its translational strategies by keeping their exact meaning given by various authors.

Nowadays it is very crucial to translate directly, taking into consideration the lexical, stylistic and pragmatic features of translation process. Analysis of the features of translational procedures and rendering meanings from English into Russian languages is urgent and up-to-date. The history of English literature is very rich with fictions, novels, poems, prose and other genres of literature. Particularly, rendering the exact meaning of those belles-lettres to other cultures is as well important. Especially, the rendering exact meaning of similes is very crucial, because various authors employ similes with different purposes. Simile is matching two subjects, which have one common feature, for better characterization of one of them, while comparison is matching two objects belonging to one class. The problem in simile rendering lies in various authors' approaches in its usage. Thus, every expertise in translation should take into account the culture of the second language, author's views, his/her approach in expressing moods and etc. in this article, as the research tool Hemingway's novels were used in the examples.

Similes can be classified as: individualistic, generally accepted and fixed. In any context, generally accepted similes are based on objective data, which may compare two concrete things, people, and places. Half of them are international:

“brave as a lion”- “смелый как лев”

This kind of simile is used worldwide, because everyone knows how strong and powerful the lion is. And when someone or something is being compared to a lion, without translation, it becomes vital from the sentence itself.

“stubborn as a mule”-” упрямый как осел”

In most cases, authors compare people with animals as in the case of a mule or a lion. Because most animals are being associated with someone or something according to personality, traits and undoubtedly with appearance.

-Individualistic similes create unforgettable image of a person or thing:

“I wandered lonely as a cloud”-”я одиноко бреду как облако”

Here, the author compares himself with clouds. As it is vital from examples he makes similarity animate things with inanimate objects.

There are two modes of comparison: similes (imaginative comparison), and comparison itself (logical comparison).

Only one similar peculiarity is compared while considering all characteristics of compared things in a logical comparison. The important thing is fantasy or imaginary elements in simile type of comparison.

“Oh, John could do this forty times better than I”

“Джон смог это сделать в 40 раз лучше, чем я”

In this example it can be seen that this sentence is a type of imaginative comparison. In some cases, it is really hard to differentiate the imagery similes from logical comparison. The analysis of simile should be

taken from examples and accordingly the current work has been done which is based on the novel by

“The old and the sea” by Ernest Hemingway. During the research, this novel has been thoroughly analyzed paying considerable attention to the usage of similes and the reasons of its appearance in the novel. At the center of the plot- the old fisherman whose name is Santiago makes his last-85th attempt to catch fish after 84 times unlucky attempts. He must have gone far from a shore. And he was right in that situation and finally he could catch a big Fish-Marlin. But unfortunately, it was not easy to catch up the Fish-Marlin. After several days of fight with fishes and sharks he couldn't take it up. The old fisherman could save only fish's head a sword.

In order to achieve the tasks, all similes were classified according to thematic groups, structural types, and were underlined the complex types of similes in the novel. The following thematic groups seem to be the image of the personage-the old man:

1. the sea: ” his sword was as long as baseball bat and tapered like a rapier’
‘вместо носящее было мечом длинная как бейсбольная клюшка, и острый на конце, как рапира’.

Appearance: “They were the same color as the sea”

“глаза были цветом похожи на море”

-Character:

“Keep your head clear and know how to suffer like a man”

“Приведи свои мысли в порядок и постарайся переносить страдания, как человек”.

Nature:

“The clouds over the land now rose like mountains”

“Облака над землей возвышались теперь, как горная гряда”

The structure of author simile differs in multiplicity of images. Knowledge on structural properties of similes makes translation easier.

The following formulas of similes are widely used in their structures:

-As+adj/ adv+as+noun

“They were not the ordinary pyramid-shaped teeth of most sharks. They
were nearly as long as the fingers of the old man”

“Они были не похожи на обычные пирамидальные зубы
большинства акул. Длиною они не уступали пальцам старика”

- Linking verb+like+adj+noun

“His shirt had been patched so many times that it was like the sail”.

“его латаная-

перелатаная рубаша сопоставляется с парусом, который тоже был весь в заплатках из мешковины”

-verb+like+adj+noun:

“They played like young cats”

“Они играли как котята”

In this example the main thing is about Santiago's dream about long distant countries where the young lions were being compared with cats.¹ The old man dreamt neither about women nor great events or other big fishes, but he dreamt about young lions. It might be because their image could bring him great enjoyment and at the same time he felt nostalgic of those gone young moments.

Simile can be used in negative forms:

“He is not a scavenger nor just a moving appetite as some sharks are. He is beautiful and noble and knows

¹Hemingway. E. The old man and the sea, United States-1952, p 63

nor fear of anything”

“Она не просто пожирает падаль и не просто ненасытная утроба, как они, а она красивое и благородное животное которое не знает, что такое страх”

This type of simile demonstrates that Santiago didn't intend to kill it, but he defended his own life and if not him but someone else could do it instead of him.

-simile can be used in comparative forms as an adjective:

“He watched the lines that went straight down in the dark of the water. He kept them straighter than anyone did”

“Он смотрел в глубь моря куда уходили его лески. У него они всегда уходили в воде прямее чем у других рыбаков.”

From this example, the author intended to show that Santiago was able to do everything in order as for catching fish.

-simile might be used through linking adverbs: as though, as if

For example:

“when the fish had been hit it was as though he himself were hit”

“Акула кинулась на рыбу. Ему показалось что она кинулась на него самого.”

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According to grammatical and lexicosemantic peculiarities, the comparison is divided in two types: simple and complex modes.

Here are the instances of these two types:

Simple: “as a bubble”

The complex comparison consists of a whole sentence:

“As something that gave or withheld great favours”.

The word that is the object or association in the text is related to a noun:

“to suffer like a man”,

“tapered like a rapier”,

As old as erosions”

meanwhile might be related to personal pronouns as:

“never have I seen a greater thing than you, brother”.

There were given the following modes of translation of simile from English into Russian:

-Syntactical comparison or word for word translation:

“like a male and he pulls like a male”

“Как самец и он тянет как самец”

-Grammar substitute, one of the widespread factors is a parts of speech:

“as it keeps me alive”

“я не могу умереть”

-Or the word for word translation is:

“ (рыбная ловля) держит меня живым”⁹

In this case, adjective “alive” is replaced the verb “умереть”. Translators didn’t choose word for word translation because it may sophisticate (complicate) the reader’s understanding and therefore utilize the mode of grammatical replacement.

1.Adding:

“like the backing of mirrors”

“которую покрывают оборотную сторону зеркала”

2.Omission: the process of omitting some elements of a text in order to avoid redundancy (extra information):

“as long as the one room of the shack”

“такой же длины как хижина”

3.Meaning expansion:

“it looked like the flag of permanent defeat”

“он (парус) напоминал знамя наголову разбитого полка”

4.Rearrangement: the change of places of words during translation:

“they were nearly as long as the fingers of the old man”

“ длиною они не уступали пальцам старика”.

5.Decomposition: the process of making two or more independent sentences from complex sentences.

“only the tops of blue hills that showed white as though they
were snow-capped and the clouds that looked like high snow
mountainsabovethem”

“вдали вырисовывались лишь верхушки голубых холмов, которые
Отсюда казались белыми, словно были одеты снегом.”

6.The process of using simile during translation when there is no comparison in the original text:

“the old man lifted the burnished gold fish withits purple

Spotsoverthestem”.

“ Старик втащил в лодку жаркую как золото рыбу

Сфиолетовымиразводами”

7.The absence of comparative conjunctions:

“each line, as thick around as a big pencil”

The translation should be:

“каждая леса такая же толстая как большой карандаш”

The ready translation is not the same as above the line because there are no such conjunctions in Russian grammar:

“каждая леса толщиной с большой карандаш”

As it can be clearly seen, literal devices have different techniques and methods in rendering to other languages. Translator should be trained well and be able to employ those techniques appropriately in the translation of stylistic devices.

“Her blue eyes were nice.”

“Her blue eyes shone like the speckled sea at sunrise.”

“Her blue eyes shone like the speckled sea at sunrise.”

The woman's eyes are being compared to the sea at sunrise. This simile helps us picture what the character is experiencing. There are quite a few similes in *The Old Man and the Sea* as it can be clearly seen from the novel.

The Fish: One solid example of a simile is when the narrator describes the appearance of a marlin. He tells us "His sword was as long as a baseball bat and tapered like a rapier." Can you identify what is being compared in this sentence? Here is a hint - there are two similes in this example.

The first simile is when the narrator compares the length of the fish's nose, or its sword, to a baseball bat. The second example is when the narrator describes how it is tapered like a rapier. Each simile helps us picture the fish's nose and gives a clearer picture of what the narrator sees.

Blood Like a Cloud: Another example of a simile comes when the narrator describes a fish that is bleeding in the ocean. At first, the blood is dark and "then it spread like a cloud." In this example, the blood and the way it spreads out is being compared to a cloud using the word "like". This simile helps us picture what the fish's blood looks like as it spreads out in the water. It is interesting to note how different blood is from a cloud, but that the simile works well enough to give us a clear mental picture of what happens.

The Fish's Eyes

Similes can use either the word "like" or "as" to compare things. An example of a simile from **The Old Man and the Sea** that uses like comes when the narrator is describing a dead fish.

“the fish's eye looked as detached as the mirrors in a periscope or as a saint in a procession.”

These two similes might be tough to understand since many readers may not be familiar with a periscope or a saint in procession. A periscope is a tube with mirrors at the top and bottom that helps someone see up. The part that sticks out of the water and looks like an eye is the periscope. Imagining the mirrors in a periscope tube that are separated, point in opposite directions, and are positioned at an angle and it can be observed how odd the eyes on the fish must have looked.

“The Old Man and the Sea” is full of figurative devices. Figurative devices constitute the main part of the book. It can be seen that the translator undoubtedly will use more literal translation method to translate figurative languages in *The Old Man and the Sea*. During the analysis, there were found 94 literal translation methods which applied to translate figurative languages. Literal translation is the translation which prioritizes the equivalent word or expression in the target language which has the same meaning as the word or expression in the source language. Literal translation should preserve the structure of the source language sentence, even though the structure was not acceptable in the target language. If the structure is changed slightly in order to be accepted in the structure of the target language, it is called modified literal translation. The next one is communicative translation method; there are 48 communicative methods which are found in translating figurative language in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Looking back at the history of the novel, in 1952, there is a new novel came up with titled *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. With 109 of pages long the work gains Nobel Prize in literature. *The Old Man and the Sea* is translated into various languages like Russian language, Indonesian language, and many more.

The translational operation is a matter of transactions between parties that have an interest in these transactions taking place. For those involved in the transfer, the various modalities and procedures that go with it presuppose choices, alternatives, decisions, strategies, aims and goals. Norms play a crucial role in these processes. In what follows the emphasis will be on the agents involved in these processes rather than on the nature of the relation between source.

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