Translation of image-bearing phraseological units

While teaching the practical translation course with students of linguistic department we faced translation difficulties caused by numerous of extra linguistic factors. For instance, the translation of phraseological units, which reflects the translator's cultural background, the history of people of the source language, their traditions and habits, peculiar way of thinking – in order to choose proper translation devices to preserve stylistic coloring of the target language. All these factors make students' translation rather difficult. On the one hand, it is not always easy to preserve the national 'flavor' in translation, on the other hand – there is always a danger of introducing national element of target language. The main task here is to find phraseological unit of TL expressing the same ideas and belonging to the same stylistic register as the original phraseological unit. Figurative set deserve special attention. Based on imagery, phraseological units serve to make the text more expressive, they are also responsible for stylistic coloring of the text. It becomes very important to find the adequate variant of translating every phraseological unit.

We advise to use four main ways to translate an image – bearing phraseological unit: 1) the image may be preserved as it is. 2) it may be partially changed, 3) it may be replaced by an utterly different image and 4) a translated version may contain no image at all.

- 1. They usually preserve the image of so-called international, phraseological units. Such units are based on same historical, biblical references: 'to go through the fire and water' пройти сквозь огонь и воду.
- 2. It often happens that PH.U. of SL and TL express the same ideas and are based upon similar through not identical images. In such cases it is possible to ignore differences between the images 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush' –лучше синица в руке чем журавль в небе.
- 3. The complete substitution of the image does not change the general meaning of the proverb 'Too many cooks spoil the broth' is an adequate translation 'У семи нянек и дитя без глазу' in this case complete substitution of image is recommend.
- 4. In SL there may exist PH. U that have neither equivalents nor analogues in TL, such PH. U are translated descriptively, by free phrases which are neither phraseological nor figurative: 'a skeleton in the cupboard' 'семейная тайна'.

In conclusion we advise to mind out for main peculiarities of these PR.U. – is there specific meaning that often cannot be deduced from the meanings of their components. It is the meaning of the whole, not of the separate words, that should be rendered in translation.