THE METHODS OF PROPER NAMES’ TRANSLATION

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In modern linguistic, there is a heightened interest to problems of onomatology. Proper names (onyms) adopt a special place in Ukrainian, English, German languages etc. They can be met in each area, can be presented in different functional styles. The translation of proper names is a difficult challenge, which causes mistakes during a translation and can drive to vagaries and misinformation.

It is important to examine possible ways of transferring, to know their special aspects for using them in translation practice. A. V. Superanskaya, A. A. Pashkevich, A. F. Artemova were involved in onomatology. They tried to figure out and mark the main problems of onyms’ translation.

So, there are a few methods of personal names’ transferring:

1. The straight graphic translation, which is used when languages have the same graphic system, is called transplantation. Demerit of this method is that speakers can identify the pronunciation of a name incorrectly.

2. When languages use different graphic system, but letters and their combinations in this languages fulfill each other and they are translated according to correspondence, so we can talk about transliteration. As Latin or Cyrillic have the general basis, which allows us to put alphabets’ letters in correlation to each other. Transliteration was often used in translation practice during XVIII-XIX cent., when linguistic contacts were fragment: (the scientist’s name Newton were translated as “Невтон”).

3. The main principle of proper names’ transferring is transcription- the method of phonetical similitude, when a sounding of foreign name is transmitted with receiving language’s resources. The purpose of transcription is to follow the method of mutual correlation between incoming language’s phonemes and their graphic representation in a foreign language.

4. Another one method is transposition. When names, which have the different forms in each language, but have the same etymology, are used as an equivalent. And also it is peculiar for interpretation of Russian names, which have a Greek origin, into English.

Besides there exists a difficulty in translation of Antique and Biblical names. A translator have to decide, which form should be used: modern or historical variant. So, we have a three variants of name George, which can be transferred as «Джордж» - if we talk about our contemporary (Джордж Буш); «Георг» - when we name the monarch; «Георгій»- about The Great Martyr. Following the tradition, names of monarchs, saints and religious lieders are translated using
transposition. For example, King’s name James is passed as “Иаков”, John – “Иоанн”, Charles – as “Карл”.

For toponyms’ reproduction, which consist of two or more words, can be used the method of calquing. For example, White House- “Білий дім”, Wild West – “Дикий Захід”. But calquing doesn’t respond to modern translation’s tendencies and norms. That’s why sometimes, toponyms are translated with a half-calque. It means, that one part of word is appeared while word for word translation, and others are made with transcription or transliteration.

Translators have to choose what is more important: onyms, which are good in law, or those, which can be accepted by middle reader or listener easily. If the second variant is more important, so we can use a calque (First National Bank – “Перший національний банк”).

In such a way, some recommendations are pointed below:

1) make a sure, that you have a proper name (not all English words, which are written with a big letter, are proper); to define a range of onyms (exactly what is named- a human, an organization, etc, the translation depends on it);

2) to recognise an onym’s native language (a pronunciation will be depended on basic language, so and transcription);

3) to check an occurance of traditional correspondences (It is possible, that the name has already had a steady translation.); to accept the translational solutions, keeping in mind all aspects of onym’s form and meaning, and audience, which is going to receive a translation.

Conclusion. Generally, proper names represent a real challenge for both professional and novice translators; therefore, they merit attention from researchers and scholars in the field of translation studies. It is clear that translators must be familiar. So, onyms’ translation is a huge formation of precision vocabulary, this is not an easy and quite responsible work, which translators must accept seriously and carefully, using their knowledges and accessible background information, choosing those ways of transferring, which meet the modern standards and their pragmatic mission.

References:

3. Onomastic terminology [Electronic resource]: http://icosweb.net/terminalogy