



## **The Features of the Translation of Monorhemes and Diremes from English into Russian**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to identify the features of the transmission of the semantic structure of speech in English and Russian when translating using the example of monogram and direme, and also to ensure consistency between them. The following methods were used during the research: analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis and descriptive method, as well as adequate translation. An analysis of the current state of translation in the English-Russian sphere has shown that at the moment when translating texts, there are some difficulties associated with semantic, linguistic, and cultural differences between the two languages. It was concluded that any transformations made during the translation of a text are aimed at overcoming the differences in the communicative structure of English and Russian utterances. The practical significance of the study is determined by the fact that these recommendations for the translation of monogram and directives can be used in translation activities.

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## 1. Introduction

According to modern calculations, the number of living languages in the world ranges from 2.500 to 50.000 (Lin, 2020). There are more than a thousand Indian languages, about a thousand African languages; in the islands of New Guinea alone, there are more than 700 different languages. However, the majority of languages are languages with a very small number of native speakers (some of them are spoken by only 100 to 1000 people; a typical example is the Mansi speech on the territory of Russia with about 150 native speakers). There are less than 100 languages spoken by 95% of the world's population (Bei, 2020; Vijay Sundar Ram & Devi, 2018). However, in the case of simulating a situation in which every inhabitant of the planet may need to communicate with representatives of each of the world's languages, the number of language barriers will be extremely high. To reduce the number of such barriers, a translation of the language is performed, which makes it possible to get acquainted with the semantic features of another language.

In the cognitive-communicative research paradigm, translation acts as an operation with the content of the original message, resulting in a generation of a communicatively relevant meaning, which is presented through the content of the units of the translation language and acquires a material form for transition to the target audience, which acts as a co-author of the new communicative meaning (Natu et al., 2018). Translation is primarily a type of mental and speech activity, but the specific nature of this activity determines the characteristic features of each of the stages. The starting point of the translator's activity is considered to be the comprehension of the general meaning of the original text, the result of which is the generation of a holistic image of what is read or heard, the creation of a textual concept as a mental representation, which occurs in the process of integrating the information of the text into the holistic picture of the world of the translator-interpreter. This concept serves as a conceptual basis for the image of the target text, which should combine the essential characteristics of the textual concept of the original, which in turn can be integrated into the national worldview of the target audience

(Khan et al., 2018; Orekhova et al., 2019; Yang, 2018).

The term 'translation' is closely related to the concepts of the integration of ethnic cultures, intercultural communication, and dialogue of cultures (Haiyan, 2018). The integration of ethnic cultures is the synthesis and assimilation of typological features and characteristics of different cultures. More specifically, it is a phenomenon of interaction in which modern civilization, the vector of development of which is determined by the globalization processes, is being updated and enriched through the knowledge of new principles of thinking, culture, i.e., through the dialogue of cultures. The dialogue of cultures is one of the main regulators of interaction in the international community, the main feature of global globalization in the modern world (Bi, 2020).

Translation is a process of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication, in which a secondary text is created based on a directed analysis of the translation of the source text, which replaces the original in a new language and cultural environment. To perform an equivalent translation, it is necessary to use the so-called translational transformations or in other words, transformations. Transformations in translation are changes that make it possible to move from the original units to the translation units in the specified sense. Since translation transformations are performed using language units that have both a content plane and a plane of expression, they are of a formal semantic nature, transforming both the form and the meaning of the original units. The task of the translator is to convey the content of the original by means of another language holistically and accurately while preserving its stylistic and expressive features. Translation provides immediate and long-term contacts between people as it helps to overcome the language barrier, from the communication of two friends who speak different languages, to the exchange of strategically important information at the international level. Translation facilitates the exchange of information of different nature, and this exchange is the basis of human progress (Wen & van Heuven, 2018; Yatsenko, 2019).

The object of this research is the semantic division of sentences in Russian and English. The subject of the study is the monorheme and

the direme as a specific utterance, their semantic structure. The purpose of this study was to identify the features of the transfer of the semantic structure of speech in English and Russian when translating on the example of monorhemes and diremes, as well as to ensure consistency between them.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

The emergence of language about 100.000 years ago, and writing about 5.000 years ago laid the foundation for the development of translation. The history of translation was studied by Vasheghani Farahani and Amiri (2019). Almost nothing is known about the history of translation in the cultures of regions outside Europe, for example, in the Mediterranean, as well as about the history of interpretation, the development of which remains largely unexplored. However, at that time, interpretation was more important than written translation, since the exchange of oral information in ancient times was of great importance. One of the first pieces of evidence of the existence of a translation is the “Septuagint”, written in 247 B.C. This is a translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek, which was created within 72 days by 72 translators. The Rosetta Stone inscription of 196 B.C. is a sacred decree written in two languages and three different writing styles: in Egyptian – in demotic script and hieroglyphs, and Greek. This multilingual document helped to decipher the hieroglyphs (Vasheghani Farahani & Amiri, 2019).

Translations have often played an important role in the exchange of knowledge between different nations: it is enough to look at one of the epochs in which numerous translations were made to understand how information was distributed. Ancient Rome, where mostly Greek literature was translated into Latin, was the center of translation. The theoretical writing about literature and rhetoric that has been adopted from this time predicts the current debate about the value of verbal and free translation for several centuries to come. A well-known figure in the history of translation is Jerome (circa 331–429), who was proclaimed a saint and is now considered the patron saint of translators. Jerome received an errand from Pope Damasus I to translate the Bible into Latin, focusing on the Greek texts, and later, he also translated the Old Testament from Hebrew.

For many centuries, his Latin version of the Bible was considered the official Bible text of the Roman Catholic Church (Beiler & Dewilde, 2020).

Transformations of any type are subject to a single purpose – adequate transmission of the original text. Transformations in language were studied by Grabowski (2020) and Han (2020). To determine what transformations are necessary, the text is subjected to pre-translation analysis, one of the tasks of which is to find out by what means in the English text (lexical, grammatical, stylistic, and intonational) the communicative goal is achieved. Since the main linguistic communicative unit is a statement made in the form of a sentence, it is necessary to establish its logical and grammatical organization. It involves the semantic richness of a word or collocation, its contextual connections, the grammatical relations in which it is presented, and the position within the sentence. The identification of the logical and grammatical organization of a sentence is possible due to the identification of what is the rheme (predicate, the purpose of the information for which this statement occurs) and the theme (secondary, already known data). Properly established connections within sentences make it possible to more accurately understand the development of the narrative and build it logically correctly (Abualadas, 2019).

## 3. Methodology

This study consisted of two stages – theoretical and practical. For each stage, the appropriate methods of scientific knowledge were selected to implement the tasks set. At the theoretical stage, the following methods were used: analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis, and descriptive method. Analysis is a method of cognition that makes it possible to divide the subjects of research into their components (ordinary elements of an object or its properties and relations). This method involves the study of a subject by mentally or practically dividing it into its constituent elements (parts of the object, its features, properties, and relations). Each of the selected parts is analyzed separately within a single whole. The division of the whole into its components makes it possible to reveal the construction of the object under study; the division of a complex phenomenon into simpler elements allows separating the significant from

the insignificant and reducing the complex to the simple.

One of the forms of analysis is the classification of subjects and phenomena (division into classes, groups, types, etc.). Synthesis is a method of studying an object in its entirety, in a single and mutual connection of its parts, i.e., in contrast to analysis, this method makes it possible to connect individual parts or sides of the object into a single whole. In the process of scientific research, synthesis is closely related to analysis since it allows combining the parts of the subject that were divided during the analysis, establishing their connection, and studying the subject as a whole (labor productivity of the production association as a whole). In this study, the method of analysis and synthesis was used to study the general features of English-Russian translation, and in particular translating monorhemes and diremes (Köksal, 2020).

Comparative analysis is based, respectively, on the process of comparing subjects or phenomena of reality in order to establish similarities or differences between them, as well as finding common features that may be inherent in two or more objects of research. Comparison is always an important prerequisite for generalization. Various objects or phenomena can be compared directly or indirectly through their comparison with a third object (standard). In the first case, qualitative results are usually obtained (more-less, higher-lower, etc.), comparing objects with the standard makes it possible to obtain quantitative characteristics. This kind of comparison is called measurement. Through the use of comparison, information about an object can be obtained in two ways: the direct result of the comparison (primary information) and the result of processing primary data (secondary or derived information). In this study, the comparative method was used to compare the semantic features of the English and Russian languages, as well as Russian monorhemes and diremes and their foreign equivalents.

The next method used is the descriptive method, which is a set of procedures for inventory, classification, and interpretation of the studied linguistic phenomena in synchrony. Thus, for example, if it is necessary to study the phonetic system of a language, one should single out all the sounds from speech, identify

them, and present a complete list of them (inventory sounds), thus classify them (distinguish vowels and consonants, divide consonants into sonorous and obstruent, obstruents – into voiced and voiceless, etc.). The descriptive method uses techniques of external and internal interpretation. Internal interpretation involves the classification of the studied units according to certain parameters: for example, the classification of morphemes by place and role in the word, by participation in the word, and form formation, etc. External interpretation demonstrates the connections of a language unit from the realia designated by it, categories of consciousness, the situation of designation, etc. In this study, the descriptive method was used in the analysis of monorhemes and diremes (Ohlson, 2019).

The practical part of the study was the analysis of monorhemes and diremes on specific examples in English. To implement this, translation was used. To correctly adapt the examples of monorhemes and diremes analyzed in the study in English to Russian, a specifically adequate translation was used, during which words are translated taking into account the connections with other words. Such a translation accurately conveys the meaning and style of the original and meets all the norms of the literary language.

## **4. Results and Discussion**

### **4.1. Difficulties in the Translation from English**

The specifics of translation, which distinguishes it from other types of activities, is the full replacement of the original text with the translated text. Full correspondence is not possible due to the losses that are unavoidable in translation, related to differences in cultural and historical associations, the discrepancy between individual content elements in the original language and the translation, the difference in the grammatical structure of the language, and stylistic features. Thus, the terms 'adequacy' and 'equivalence' are used to denote the character and relationship between the source text and the translated text. In the center of adequate translation is the process of focusing on the target or source audience, and in the center of equivalent is the result of the correlation of the original texts and translation, that is, when these two terms are used side by

side, adequacy, as a rule, refers to a freer, less absolute correlation of the original texts and translation than the equivalence. Lexical, grammatical, stylistic, and syntactic difficulties in translating texts arise from differences in the worldview of English and Russian-speaking linguocultures. Each linguoculture has its national communicative style, and the translator must take into account the national and cultural specifics of the construction of the discourse/communication. The specifics of the structure of the original language and the translation language, the norms of their use are also a source of complications in finding equivalent forms of content transmission. As regards the grammatical level, English and Russian languages have their own morphological and syntactic norms that are valid only for these languages. In the process of transmitting a thought in another language, it is necessary to find such means and, first of all, such grammatical forms that will correspond to the content and merge with it as the original form merges with its content.

For the study of the patterns of translation activity, the features of the language, directly or indirectly caused by the culture of native speakers, are of great interest. Such features can manifest themselves at different levels of the language structure, in the rules of verbal communication, in the ways of describing extra-linguistic reality, and the socio-cultural determinacy of the language vocabulary is also easily demonstrated. In addition, different cultures have always influenced and continue to influence each other, the nature of the knowledge of reality depends on the language in which the subject thinks and explores the world. People divide the world, organize it into concepts, and distribute meanings in the way that language imposes on them. Cognition does not have an objective, universal character: similar phenomena are made up in different pictures due to differences in thinking caused by differences in languages. Hence, full mutual understanding between representatives of different cultures speaking different languages is fundamentally impossible: languages build a barrier between the thinking of people of different cultures. But at the same time, language barriers do not prevent contact between cultures.

In the context of the interconnection and interdependence of the modern world, different cultures are not isolated from each other, but constantly contact and interact. Representatives of one culture face the peculiarities of other cultures when communicating directly with the speakers of these cultures in their own country and abroad, or receive relevant information orally or in writing, from the screen, from newspaper pages, from literary works, and other sources. Translations belong to such sources, which are widely used today. By revealing the uniqueness and diversity of cultural values, customs, and traditions, translations promote mutual understanding and respect, enrich the culture of each nation, and make a great contribution to the development of its language, literature, science, and technology. Translations play an important role in the culture of the target language. It is known that many national languages and cultures were formed under the influence of translations, mainly from ancient languages (the Roman Empire was influenced by the cultural heritage of Ancient Greece). The translation process, which is the specifics of communication using two languages, has its own significant features: the first feature is its diversity, the other feature of the translation process is the lack of understanding of the subtleties of some of its aspects (Geng, 2018; Linxin & Mingwu, 2019).

Translation is both a speech contact and a phenomenon of bilingualism, but this particular case of bilingualism may seem uninteresting at first glance because it deviates far from the norm. Bilingualism of a professional translator is not only the knowledge of two languages but also the ability to find and correlate the communicative equivalent means of these languages, taking into account the characteristic features of a particular act of communication, as well as knowledge of the principles, methods, and techniques that create such a skill. The constant contact of the two languages in the translation process creates the conditions for conscious or unconscious changes in the target language under the influence of the original language. At the same time, insufficiently qualified translators systematically violate the norms and manners of the language in translation, creating a so-called translation language, which has been repeatedly criticized, especially in the field of literary translation. For the study of the patterns of translation activity,

the features of the language, directly or indirectly caused by the culture of native speakers, are of great interest. The translation is a complex multi-faceted phenomenon that requires a specialist not only to have an excellent knowledge of the language, but also the ability to distinguish between semantic and stylistic shades of written or spoken speech; knowledge of the history of the language and, accordingly, the development of the culture in society. Having background knowledge about the culture, mentality, and ethnological development of a native speaker's nation is an integral part of a successful translator's work.

The translation of complex terms and collocations consists of two main procedures – analytical and synthetic. An important role in the translation of collocations is played by the analytical stage – the translation of its individual components, which involves the correct identification of the components of a complex term, since they can be not only words but also collocations that are part of a complex word. It is also important to establish what semantic relations the components have with each other and with the main component of the term-collocation. The nature of these relations determines the order and the very content of the translation of a complex term. The synthetic stage of translation involves building components depending on the specified semantic relations and obtaining the final version of the translation of a complex term. Translation of this word in the specific sense means the exact transmission of the meaning of the text in the source language by means of the target language, that is, ideally, a new message should not appear during translation. As a rule, the translation process consists of two stages: understanding and formatting. Translation in this sense is a perfection that is very difficult to achieve, so to identify its boundaries and conditions, three levels of analysis should be used: philosophical-linguistic, cultural, and linguistic.

Philosophical and linguistic level – translation is carried out from one natural language to another. Lotman emphasizes that natural languages are imperfect means of transmitting information, unlike artificial ones – the addresser's code and the addressee's code do not coincide with each other, but correspond to each other: the condition for an adequate translation is the maximum compliance of the

message transmission codes (Haiyan, 2018). The cultural level of analysis helps to understand why natural languages, which are codes of information transmission, can only partially comply with each other, but not coincide. Language is a carrier of culture, and the culture of each nation at the civilizational level has its own conceptual system, different from others. The translation of the texts of one community into the language of another may be adequate if these societies belong to the same civilization. Translation of texts of one civilization into the language of another cannot be adequate due to the difference in conceptual systems (Natu et al., 2018). Language level – translation from one language to another is possible if the original language has concepts that are equivalent and correspond to the concepts of the target language, and the meaning of the concept of the original language and the target language is the same.

Therefore, when translating, special attention should be paid not only to grammatical constructions but also to the cultural and sociological national features of the native speaker, it is necessary to have fairly broad background knowledge. Special attention should be also paid to the phenomena or concepts that exist in the culture of native speakers of the original language but are not present in the culture of native speakers of the target language. Such phenomena and concepts require not only the special skills of the translator but also the constant replenishment of diverse knowledge and expanding their own horizons. This also applies to the translation of scientific and technical literature, in particular legal literature, which contains a large number of specific terms and features inherent only in this country.

#### **4.2. Analysis of the Features of the Translation of Monorhemes and Diremes from English**

Thematic-rhematic relations in English are established in various ways. The logical center of the utterance in English can be distinguished by various means: logical stress, content, and contacts (due to the formation of a chain, contact, parallel, or linear connection), grammatically (due to the article, passive construction with or without the preposition 'by'), lexically (using words with an intensifying-restrictive meaning, which usually stand before the word-carrier of

the new), positionally (by inversion) and contextually (Abualadas, 2019). The way of expressing rheme through positioning in an English sentence is that the arrangement of words occurs inversely, i.e., with a change in its usual structure. The most common in this case is the construction *there is/there are*, the construction is that a passive construction, inverting the parts of a sentence (predicate, appositive). In translation, the rheme is distinguished as a result of syntactic, grammatical, and lexical transformations. Among the syntactic transformations, as a rule, the possibility of changing the order of words in a sentence is considered first. In order to distinguish the rheme positionally, it is necessary to take into account the features of the construction of the sentence in Russian, in which the location of the purpose of the statement tends to the end of the sentence. The location of the rheme at the end of the sentence is most typical for the information structure of the sentence. There are cases when in determining the novelty of information, the question about choosing in favor of one or another option arises; in such cases, the rule of monorhemes (completely new information that appears in the text for the first time) and diremes (information that was previously mentioned indirectly or is generally known) is used (Grabowski, 2020; Han, 2020; Wrembel et al., 2020).

Monorhemes contain only new information and are usually found in the first sentences of the text, at the beginning of a paragraph, where thoughts, that the reader or listener did not know about before, are expressed (Garaeva & Nurieva, 2020; Volkova et al., 2019). The best example is newsletters, as well as the first sentence of the announcer. This is usually a monorheme: *Вчера состоялась встреча* (A meeting was held yesterday), *Сегодня ожидается сильная буря* (A strong storm is expected today). In addition to the fact that the indefinite article is placed before the noun in the text, it can serve as a formal indicator of the monorheme in English, however, the indefinite article is not the last sign of the monorheme. At the same time, a noun as a subject can have a null or definite article, usually for grammatical reasons: for example, the name of a company or organization will have a definite article, and a plural noun used for the first time will not have an article. In addition to the beginning of the

narration, monorhemes can be found in other parts of the text, especially in the middle of the paragraph, in which case the monorheme is punctuated: it is preceded by a comma to separate it from the previous section.

English monorhemes can be found not only singly, but also in whole groups, each of these monorhemes is translated according to the general rules, namely: the rheme in the initial position of the English sentence translated into Russian will be at the end. Monorhemes can be at the center of any narration as if they are paying attention to something more important or new. In this sense, an English sentence of the combined type using two tenses is typical, for example, Past Simple and Past Continuous. The first part – Continuous – creates a decoration, against which the action, expressed by Simple, takes place. For example: *Мы писали диктант в классе, когда случился пожар.* – We were writing a dictation in class when the fire happened (Meldianova, 2018).

Diremes appear as the story progresses, they convey something new in the information provided in the previous sentence: *Mom entered the room. She was upset.* – *Мама вошла в комнату. Она была расстроена.* In this example, the second sentence is directive. What distinguishes direme from monorheme is that the order of English words is preserved during translation, and rheme, in Russian, still appears at the end. Diremes are often expressed by inversion to preserve the rheme, i.e., the center of the utterance: *There was a huge pile of rubbish in the yard.* – *Во дворе была огромная куча мусора.* Translators distinguish between directives in which the subject is a real circumstance or object. The fact is that one of the linguistic means that allows the subject to go to the end of the statement is the use of the subject, which does not mean the agent noun, but the circumstances of the action, the object of the action, or some signs of the agent noun:

1) the subject acts as an adverbial modifier of place: *The theatre costs 10 pounds for them.* – *Театр стоит 10 фунтов для них.* The word 'theatre' only formally takes the place of the subject, it does not indicate the agent noun, but the place of action; the real subject in this statement is the named amount of money, grammatically designed as an object;

2) the subject acts as an actual adverbial modifier of time. In the role of the subject, nouns are often used in this case, denoting different time periods, and verbs like ‘signal see’, ‘bring (about)’, and ‘witness’ are used as a predicate. In translation, the word order is reversed, while the subject is replaced by an adverbial modifier of time;

3) the subject as a valid object. In English, the subject becomes a direct, indirect, or object of a preposition: This may have a number of consequences. – Это может иметь ряд последствий;

4) the subject in the role of the actual adverbial modifier of purpose or manner. Such a subject often denotes phenomena or some inanimate object that serves as an incentive for further action: The severe flood inundated many buildings. – В результате сильного наводнения было затоплено много зданий.

Translating diremes from Russian to English is a well-known difficulty, and it is advisable to use one of the four methods to translate them:

1. To turn an object or an adverbial, that begins the sentence, into a subject: Моего друга поддерживают представители власти. – My friend enjoys the support of representatives of the authorities.

2. To add the subject performing the action to the sentence, i.e., find the thematic subject: В обиход вошла новая зарубежная валюта. – A new foreign currency has come into use.

3. To get the correct translation using the cliché and the nominal subject ‘it’. Укоренилось представление о душе как о нематериальной субстанции. – It has become standard practice to represent the soul as an intangible substance.

4. Through the construction (adverbial phrase) there’s/there’re. Проводятся систематические совещания по улучшению работы нашего предприятия. – There are systematic meetings to improve the work of our company (Volkova et al., 2020).

When determining the primacy and the degree of novelty of information, preference is given to the monorheme, but if it is necessary to make a choice, one needs to remember some of the distinctive characteristics of the monorheme. Thus, its formal indicators can be an indefinite article, logical stress by introducing additional

units into the predicate, changing the usual position of spreading words and indicators of the logical center of the utterance. The transfer of the direme also requires significant transformations, which can be the replacement of parts of speech and parts of a sentence. For example, the subject can be transformed into an adverbial modifier of time, cause, purpose, manner, direct or indirect appositive, or into a subject feature. Or, if the English subject is expressed in a non-standard way (represented by a verb in a passive form or a formal subject), other transformations will be required, depending on the situation. All these and other transformations are aimed at overcoming the differences in the communicative structure of English and Russian utterances and are used in the scheme of actual division.

## 5. Concluding Remarks

The translation is a profession of a high intellectual level, and translators must consciously use the appropriate units of a particular language level when translating various language units – phonological, lexical, and syntactic. This is applicable for both languages – in the target language and the original language, each of them does not have to be the native language of the translator. However, regardless of whether the translation is performed in the native or official language, each translator must be fluent primarily in the literary/orthoepic speech of each of these two (or more) languages in which the translation is performed. The main task of the translator is to achieve semantic equivalence of the source and translated texts. To achieve it, a variety of translation transformations are required, and at the level of component equivalence, transformations that affect the grammatical structure of the utterance are required. The reason that causes grammatical transformations is that each language has its own distinctive structure, and the translator must take this into account. It is the differences in the structures of the source and the target language that make the translator use different transformations.

Despite these difficulties, translation activity in Russia has maintained its scale and significance since the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The training of translators in educational institutions continues, professional associations of translators are being created, and legislative acts regulating translation work are being prepared. Russian



scientists, who have made a great contribution to the creation of translation science, continue the research in this important area of human activity. Therefore, further research on the difficulties of translating from English to Russian and vice versa is considered promising for study.

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