DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION OF GRAMMAR TRANSFORMATIONS

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This article is devoted to the grammatical transformations. Here, I investigate the problem of articles which do not exist in the Russian language as well as the problem of non-finite forms of the verbs the system of which is richer in the English language than in the Russian language, the problems of the participle constructions and so on. In this article you will find a lot of examples from different sources to support all theoretical assumptions and translated them into the Russian language.

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The term equivalent is conventionally used to characterize the definite types of conformity between lexical units of different languages, between grammatical forms and constructions, and not their absolute equivalence and equal functionality. Regarding this Eugene Nida writes that “there cannot be complete adequacy between correlative words in different languages; the principle of equivalence cannot be absolute either in dictionaries or in translations” (http://omero.humnet.unipi.it/matdid/372/Nida,%20Principles%20of%20correspondence.pdf).

Such understanding of equivalence proves the correlation character of the elements of the language, the possibility of translation from one language into another, but at the same time it does not take away and ignore the national peculiarities of different aspects of the English and Russian languages. Taking into account that there is no one-to-one relationship between stylistic, semantic, syntactic and morphological structure, the translators should master different types of transformations.

The words are connected according to certain grammatical requirements of this or that language. It is important to mention that the compatibility of the words may appear in case of compatibility of the notions which they denote. This compatibility in different languages may vary and if something may be possible in one language, it may be absolutely unacceptable for another language.

In most cases during the translation from English into Russian the Russian sentence does not repeat the English one, does not coincide with it according to its structure. The structure of the translated Russian sentence often differs completely from the structure of the English language. It has a different word order, order of positioning the clauses-principal, subordinate and introductory clauses. Sometimes the parts of speech of the English sentence are rendered by other parts of speech in the Russian sentence. The conciseness of speech in the English language due to a number of grammatical structures and forms requires decompression during translation- introduction of additional words and even sentences. For example in the Russian translation of Prime Minister Tony Blair was hit by a tomato[...]. The original Passive Voice construction is changed to an Active Voice construction: в Британского премьера попал помидор[...].

221
The various forms that a verb can take fall under two main divisions: finite and non-finite. In the finite form the verb has the function of the predicate in the sentence. It is limited by or bound to some subject with which it agrees in person and number. The non-finite forms of a verb are three in number: the infinitive, the participle, the gerund.

The infinitive was originally a verbal noun, in the course of its development it has acquired some characteristics of the verb and is at present intermediate between verb and noun.

The infinitive in the function of an attribute- is usually rendered in Russian by an attributive clause with a modal verbal predicate with the meaning of possibility or necessity or by a verb-predicate in the future tense.

Russia today called for a top-level conference on disarmament to be held in the first six months of the next year (Зражевская 23).

The infinitive is very often used in this function in newspaper headings due to the concise character of this construction (the predicate is omitted before the infinitive)

A former minister (is) to be court-martialled for sedition. "Morning star, 1998”

Бывший министр предстанет перед военным трибуналом по обвинению в подстрекательстве к мятежу.

After ordinals and the word the last the infinitive is translated by means of:

a) a finite form of the verb in the same tense as the verb -predicate of the principle clause;

Jim Clark on Saturday became the first to win seven races in a world motor-racing Championship (ibidem).

В субботу Джим Кларк первым одержал победу в семи заездах в чемпионате по мото-кроссу.

b) a participle.

The first person to raise objections was the Minister himself.

Первым, выступившим с возражениями, был сам министр.

The shape of things to come is shown by the data obtained by the experts (ibidem: 24).

О характере предстоящих событий можно судить по данным, полученным специалистами.

The passive form of the infinitive in this function is rendered into Russian by means of an impersonal sentence.

There is a lot to be said for holding the conference on roads in London (ibidem).

Можно сказать многое в пользу проведения конференции по состоянию дорог в Лондоне.

Other cases of translation of the infinitive:
a) by a prepositional noun:

Britain’s applications to join the Common Market will be again considered in Bruxelles today.

Заявление Англии о вступлении в общий рынок, будет снова рассматриваться сегодня в Брюсселе.

b) by a participle construction in which the modality is rendered lexically:

The items to be discussed at the next session were already agreed upon.

Вопросы, подлежащие обсуждению на следующий сессии, были уже согласованы.

**Infinitive constructions. “Nominative with the Infinitive”, or the Subject – Predicative Infinitive Construction, is broadly used in the newspaper style.** The sentences with these constructions are rendered by means of:

1) complex sentences, in which the principal clause is an impersonal sentence, like “говорят, сообщают, известно”, etc.; the objective clause is introduced by such words as что и как, the infinitive is rendered by finite form of the verb in present or past tenses.

2) in some cases this construction may be rendered by a simple sentence.

*Much greater economic tasks were seen to lie ahead.* “Morning Star, 1988”.

**Предстояли значительно более важные экономические задачи.**

The equivalents of the following words used in the Nominative with the Infinitive construction are:

[...] (he) is reported to передают, сообщается что он [...]  
[...] is believed to полагают, считают что[...]  
[...] is considered to считается что [...]  
[...] is alleged to говорят что он (якобы) [...]  
[...] is heard to имеются сведения [...]  
[...] is likely to по- видимому, по всей вероятности [...]  

**The Participle. The function of the Participle.** The English participle is used in the sentence as an attribute (except perfect forms) and adverbial modifier (of time, of cause, of manner and attending circumstances). The context of the sentence usually allows to determine the character of adverbial relations.

- as an attribute the participle is usually translated by a present or past participle (corresponding to the Russian причастие настоящего или прошедшего времени) or by an attribute clause.

*They passed a resolution calling for a world disarmament conference.* “The Times, 1999”

Они приняли резолюцию, призывающую к созыву международной конференции по разоружению.

- As an adverbial modifier the participle may be rendered by a participle construction corresponding to деепричастный оборот in Russian, a subordinate clause or independent sentence (the latter is used when the participle has the function of an attending circumstance) or by other means depending on the words combining power in Russian.
Commenting last night on the plan he warned the Ministry of the critical situation which might develop.

Комментируя вчера вечером этот план (выступая вчера вечером с комментарием) он предупредил министерство о том, что может создаться критическое положение.

Participle II (sometimes Participle I), depending on the foregoing conjunction, may also express other adverbial meanings. Thus, for instance, in combination with the conjunction if or unless the participle has the meaning of the adverbial modifier of circumstance; after the conjunction though it has the meaning of concession. Such participle constructions are rendered in Russian by subordinate clauses.

If given the opportunity, this industry will rapidly develop.

Если этой отрасли промышленности предоставить благоприятные возможности, она будет быстро развиваться.

 PARTICIPLE CONSTRUCTIONS:

- The objective participle construction, i.e. the combination of a noun in the common case or pronoun in oblique case with the participle (noun/pronoun+participle) having the function of a complex object, is usually translated into Russian by a subordinate clause introduced by such conjunction as как, что or чтобы.

They spent last Friday listening to the minister telling the trade union leaders that it is right for workers to hold back on wage claims. “The Times, 1999”

В прошлую пятницу они весь день слушали, как министр говорил профсоюзным лидерам, что рабочие правильно сделают, если воздержаться от требований о повышении заработной платы.

- The causative or incentive construction. After the verbs to have and to get the objective participle construction (have/get +noun/pronoun+participle) forms a so-called causative or incentive construction, which means that the action is performed by someone else for the benefit of the person denoted by the subject of the sentence. In Russian there are not such construction or special means of expressing causativeness. Thus, such sentences are difficult to translate, especially because the concrete meaning of this construction depends on the context and may be very diverse.

We must treat this as a national emergency issue and must get this decision reversed.

Мы должны рассматривать это как вопрос чрезвычайного значения для страны и должны добиваться, чтобы это решение было изменено.

It should be remembered that the combination of the verb to have with an objective participle construction may have no causative meaning.

For the time being professional diplomats had their attention riveted on Washington (Зражевская 38).
В тот момент внимание профессиональных дипломатов было приковано к Вашингтону.

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