TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES USED IN RENDERING ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TERMINOLOGY

Gabriela ŞAGANEAN, Daniela PASCARU

Universitatea de Stat din Moldova

If any language consisted of a set of general or universal concepts, it would be easy to translate a text from the source language into the target language. In reality the things are different. Each language organizes the world differently. Thus, the discrepancy among languages is one of the most difficult problems for translation. The greater this discrepancy between the SL and the TL, the more difficult the transfer of message from the former to the latter will be.

In the context of Moldova's European integration, knowledge and interpretation of terminology belonging to the environment protection has a scientific-practical necessity. This paper aims at examining the procedures of the environment protection terminology translation from English into Romanian, providing efficient strategies for rendering the conceptual and structural elements of this field in the translation process.

Keywords: *borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, equivalence explicitation, specification.*

TEHNICI DE TRADUCERE UTILIZATE ÎN INTERPETAREA TERMINOLOGIEI DIN DOMENIUL PROTECŢIEI MEDIULUI

Dacă orice limbă ar conţine un set de concepte generale sau universale, ar fi uşor de tradus un text din limba sursă în limba ţintă. În realitate, lucrurile sunt diferite. Fiecare limbă organizează lumea diferit. Astfel, discrepanţa dintre limbi este una dintre cele mai dificile probleme în procesul de traducere. Cu cât mai mare este această discrepanţă între LS şi LŢ, cu atât mai dificil este transferul mesajului dintr-o limbă în alta.

În contextul integrării europene, cunoaşterea şi interpretarea terminologiei ce vizează protecţia mediului constituie o necesitate ştiinţifico-practică în Republica Moldova. Această lucrare are drept scop examinarea tehnicilor de traducere a terminologiei din domeniul protecţiei mediului din limba engleză în limba română, oferind strategii eficiente pentru interpretarea elementelor conceptuale şi structurale ale acestui domeniu în procesul de traducere.

Cuvinte-cheie: *împrumut, calc, traducere literală, schimbarea formei gramaticale, echivalenţă, explicitare, specificare.*

Translation of environment protection terminology means translation of specialized words that usually are monosemantic and have an equivalent in the target language. This is the ideal case. In fact, during the process of translation there might be met some exceptions, as polysemantic terms that do not have equivalents in the target language. This requires a multi-dimensional knowledge in different fields of study. Environmental studies forces the translator to possess vast knowledge in many domains because an ecological glossary contains terms not only specific for ecology, as for example, *environment*, *greenhouse effect*, *acid rain*, *ecosystem*, *ecological pyramids* and so on, but also a lot of terms are taken from other domains that have something in common with ecology or related to it, from other sciences about environment, as geography, biology, chemistry, physics etc. The peculiarity of environmental terminology is not only in the fact that it comprises different terms from different domains, but also that these terms gain an ecological connotation; sometimes this being not very different from their primary connotation, though there are cases when they differ considerably.

There is no limit in the usage of various techniques of translation. During this process, the translator opts for different means to render successfully the meaning of the text and to shape properly the form of the target text. Sometimes it happens mechanically, though quite often the translator consciously chooses one or another technique. This is an intellectual process that requires experience and knowledge.

We intend to examine the peculiarities of translating environment protection terminology from English into Romanian, outlining the most common difficulties met during a translation process, the possible solutions and some other explanations regarding the whole usage of equivalents, descriptions etc.

Preserving the meaning of a text is the main goal of a successful translation. In the case of translating the terminology i.e. the environment protection terminology, the burden is even bigger, because the failure of proper rendering the meaning could lead to misunderstanding, problems and finally translation collapse. The

practice of translating this kind of terminology from English into Romanian or into another language is relatively new. This is due to the fact that this science is new itself; it does not have so many equivalents in every language, as medicine or geology has.

J.P. Vinay and J.Darbelnet speak about two directions translators may choose between in their activity: that of the direct/literal decoding and that of the indirect/oblique one. The use of the direct procedures creates a direct correspondence between the two languages. In this case, translating involves no semantic or grammatical restructuring. As to the indirect techniques, they generate more complex changes in the structure of the translated units. The modifications may vary from changes of the grammatical classes to the adoption of a different perspective on the surrounding reality [5, p.34-35].

According to J.P. Vinay and J.Darbelnet there are three basic direct translating procedures: *loan transfer* (also called *borrowing*), *loan translation* (also known as *calque*) and *literal translation.*

The use of *loans* in translation implies a transfer of the SL term into the TL, as the latter has no equivalent for it. *Archipelag, savana, tundra* are often met in the ecological texts.

A *loan translation (calque)* is a particular way of using loans. The subcomponents as such are retained, but they are literally translated. In other words, calques are literal translations at the level of the phrase. Such cases as *field sheet – foaie de teren*; *global warming – încălzirea globală; drainage field – câmp de drenaj, heat island – insulă de căldură, ozone hole – gaură de ozon* are representative examples of calque.

Literal translations implies a one-to-one transfer of the SL structure, which is possible in cases of direct word correspondence with changes of word order typical of the Romanian structure: *sensitive water bodies – mase / formațiuni de apă sensibile sau periclitate; anthropological influence – influență antropologică, immission limit value – valori limită ale imisiilor.*

The indirect procedures which the Canadian authors suggest are: *transposition, modulation, equivalence, explicitation* and *adaptation.*

Transposition is an oblique procedure, which consists in replacing a grammatical class by another without altering the meaning of the message. Simple transpositions affect a single sense unit.

En: *".... our efforts **to reduce emissions** from human activities will have to be even more effective if we are to keep atmospheric levels of CO_2 **stable."***

Ro: *"... eforturile umane pentru **reducerea emisiilor** de gaze vor trebui să fie cât mai eficiente dacă dorim să menținem cantitatea de CO_2 la un nivel care să nu afecteze **stabilitatea** atmosferei."*

The term *emission* is not only an ecological one, it is an international term that appears often in many other domains, as meteorology, technical inventions, geography, hydrography; here it gains an ecological connotation. This is amplified due to the word *reduce; to reduce emissions* was translated into Romanian as *reducerea emisiilor*, that is the change of the word initial grammatical form (that is the change of the parts of speech), the English verb *to reduce* was replaced by the noun *reducere* in translation. The adjective *stable* also changes its grammatical form in translation becoming the noun *stabilitatea.*

"Terminological clichés" are terms that are very often used in many contexts, they are known to the majority of speakers due to the mass media and do not belong anymore only to the specialized layer of one language, but also to the neutral one, for example:

En: *"In contrast, nitrogen – also a major component of **'acid rain'** – has not been dealt with to the same extent and so continues to cause major problems."*

Ro: *"În schimb, azotul – cealaltă componentă de bază a „**ploii acide**" – nu a fost reglementat în aceeaşi măsură, continuănd să cauzeze probleme majore."*

En: *"There are many causes but **climate change** is expected to increase both the frequency and the severity of these events."*

Ro: *"Aceste fenomene sunt cauzate de mai mulţi factori, însă este cert faptul că **schimbările climatice** îşi vor intensifica atât frecvenţa, cât şi gravitatea."*

Acid rain and *climate change* are so often used in today's media that the majority of speakers are familiar to them, even though some of them do not comprehend their meaning completely. The term *climate change* was translated in this text as *schimbare climatică*, i.e. using the technique called *transposition.* Usually it is translated into Romanian as *schimbarea climei*, the translator opted for the usage of an adjective instead of a noun, which preserves the meaning and the translsation corresponds to the grammatical features of the target language, this being the most important aspect, so the goal has been accomplished.

This is also the case with *equivalence* which in a narrow, technical sense implies maintenance in the TL of the SL situation by using utterly different structural and stylistic means. It involves the message as a whole and not only parts of it, for example: *wetland - mlaştină, environment - mediu, mitigation - reducere, sludge - nămol* etc.

J.P. Vinay and J.Darbelnet were also the first to introduce the technique of *explicitation,* which they define as "the process of introducing information into the target language which is present only implicitly in the source language, but which can be derived from the context or the situation" [5, p.170].

This lexico-semantic technique is used in cases when there is no possibility to find a word-equivalent; even calque is not suitable in this case, for example:

En: *"Some **landfills** are now being designed to promote biodegradation through the injection of water, oxygen, and even microbes."*

Ro: *"Astăzi unele **gropi de gunoi ecologice** sunt construite în aşa fel încât acestea permit biodegradarea prin intermediul introducerii apei, oxigenului, chiar şi a unor microorganisme."*

En: *"The Village of Ponderosa in West Des Moines, Iowa is a good example of suburban **infill**".*

Ro: *"Satul Ponderosa în Des Moines de Vest, statul Iowa, este un bun exemplu al **parcelelor mici vacante în zonele construite** din suburbie".*

These two examples show how *explicitation* is used in the case when there is not a suitable equivalent in the target language. This is also explained by the fact that English is an analytical language, while Romanian is a synthetical one. It is very easy to form new words, especially nouns from verbs. The verb *to fill in* easily became a noun *infill*, just using some grammatical options of English. It is impossible to form such a term in Romanian and until there are not more suitable terms, explicitation of this term is used. The same thing happened with the term *landfill*, the coinage of the words *land+fill*, easily led to the formation of a new term, while in Romanian it was explained as *groapă de gunoi ecologică*.

E.Nida (1964) adopts a broader perspective and refers to it as *addition,* including it among the main techniques of adjustment that translators have to use in their enterprise. It is used when some more words are added in the target text in order to explain the meaning of the term and to avoid misunderstanding of the message. The same thing happens when the term is narrower or broader in the source language than in the target one, in such case generalization or concretization interferes.

En: *"**Carbon offsets** enable individuals and businesses to reduce the CO_2 emissions they are responsible for by reducing or displacing the CO_2 in another place".*

Ro: *"**Compensarea emisiilor de dioxid de carbon** susţine indivizii şi oamenii de afaceri să reducă emisiile de bioxid de carbon, pentru care aceştia poartă responsabilitate, prin intermediul reducerii sau deplasării bioxidului de carbon în alt loc".*

It is obvious that using this technique of translation just overloads the text, but otherwise it would lead to some misunderstanding errors, which is absolutely inappropriate, especially for a specialized translation. In this case the word that was added is the plural form of the Romanian word *emisie,* as well the simple term *carbon* was translated as *dioxid de carbon*. First of all, the long form is used, *dioxid de carbon*, that might be translated also as *bioxid de carbon*, in order to specify that the emissions of this gas are not only crucial for nature, because it is the gas that takes part in the process of photosynthesis, but also it might be dangerous and the author did not mean the simple *carbon*. In English it is used just *carbon* because, probably, it is clear from the context that it holds on the CO_2. The same thing happens with the word *emisie*, it would be unclear and quite awkward to say *compensarea dioxidului de carbon,* that is why it is required a specification.

Another type of addition when specification is required is the following example:

En: *"... improving **sanitation** is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities."*

Ro: *"...este cunoscut că îmbunătăţirea **condiţiilor sanitare** are un impact benefic atât asupra gospodării-lor, cât şi asupra întregii comunităţi."*

In this case the term *sanitation* was translated as *condiţii sanitare,* but it is also common the usage of another translation *igienă* and sometimes some terms are also added in order to specify the meaning. For example, *sanitation* is translated as *programe de igienizare şi îmbunătăţire a calităţii apei*. This happens only in the context that requires a further specification, as in the following example:

En: *"Implementing of a better **sanitation** will lead to a sustainable development."*

Ro: *"Implementarea **programelor de igienizare şi îmbunătăţire a calităţii apei** va duce la o dezvoltare durabilă."*

In this case *sanitation* refers not only to the sanitation conditions but to the set of programs that deal with *sanitation*. That is why some more terms were used in order to avoid ambiguity.

A very interesting case is the following term: *rainstorm*.

En: *"A three-day **rainstorm** that caused extensive flooding and ripped trees out of the soaking wet ground was among the most devastating ever."*

Ro: *"O **furtună însoţită de ploaie abundentă** ce a durat trei zile a cauzat inundaţii masive şi a distrus copacii. Aceasta a fost cea mai devastatoare furtună din cele care au avut loc cândva."*

The peculiarities of English, being an analytical language, allow easily forming new words. Compared to an analytical language, Romanian, a synthetical one, does not have the same privilege. That is why it is better to add some more terms in order to specify the meaning of this term *furtună însoţită de ploaie abundentă* represents the translation of the term *rainstorm*. *Ploaie* stands for *rain*, *furtună* stands for *storm*; the word added here is *însoţită*. This construction not only helps for a better understanding of the term, but it also corresponds to the grammatical rules of the target language.

Environmental terminology has some words that are considered to be key words for every glossary of this type. It is very interesting the usage of the word *"green"*. Its primary meaning, of "a color the perception of which is evoked by light having a spectrum dominated by energy with a wavelength of roughly 520–570 nanometres" [4], in the ecological context it gains a connotation of: "environmentally sound or beneficial", "friendly" and "not harmful", "ecological", "pure". It conveys a particular meaning to other terms when it stands together, as for example, *green psychology, green revolution, greenwashing, greensand, green bulb*. In fact the word *green* became a key-word for the environmental terminology. Even the color of ecology as a whole is *green*, *green logo, green background* etc. The translation of the word *green*, that already became a term, is different and has many variations in the target language.

En: ***"green psychology"/*** Ro: ***"psihologie verde"***

In this case instead of the word *verde* it could be used *ecologică*, *modernă*, because here it emphasizes a type of thinking, which promotes a healthy life, environmentally friendly.

En: ***"green revolution"**/* Ro: ***"revoluţie verde"***

The term *revoluţie verde* is a known term; its translation preserves the allegoric character of the original term. However, it can be translated also as *revoluţie alimentară*, since the *green revolution* holds on development of agriculture, mainly, all the initiatives for development of high-yielding varieties of cereal grains. The translator would opt for one or another variant according to the target audience. If the target audience is aware about *green revolution* and its meaning then the term can be translated as *revoluţie verde*, but if the target audience seems not to know about it, it is better to use another variant *revoluţie agrară* in order not to produce an awkward situation.

Usually the term *green* stands entirely for the word ecology. The following term, another case of using *description* technique, is one of this kind:

En: ***"greenwashing"**/* Ro: ***"specularea pe bază de ecologie"***

The term *greenwashing* means "the practice of companies disingenuously spinning their products and policies as environmentally friendly, such as by presenting cost cuts as reductions in use of resources" [4]. In Romanian it was easier to explain the term than to try to find an equivalent to it, the allegoric character was not preserved, the word *green* was not translated, it is skipped, but instead it became clear for the target audience what it means.

The same thing happens with the term *green marketing* which is "the marketing of products that are presumed to be environmentally safe."

En: ***"green marketing"/*** Ro: ***"marketing de produse ecologice pure"***

Green was developed into *produse ecologice pure*, again the term is explained in order to make it clear and to make it correspond to the grammatical rules of the target language.

Environmental terminology seems to be more complex than the others. In fact it is the truth. Therefore the translation of it supposes a complicated work, which requires knowledge, skills, experience and, of course, a continuous professional growth.

It is clear that there is a set glossary in Romanian that serves as equivalents for environmental terms in English. At the same time that does not mean that there is not a possibility to improvise and to use another translation variant. Environmental terms can be translated differently depending on the target text and target audience, depending whether it has or not a set equivalent in the target language.

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