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TRANSLATOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF NON-EQUIVALENCY: COMPOSITIONAL ROLE OF LEXICAL DOMINANTS IN POETIC TEXT

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Abstract. This article presents a comprehensive analysis of non-equivalent lexicon functioning as a key component in the translational structure of poetic texts. The research integrates theoretical frameworks regarding the "strong positions" of a text with applied aspects of contemporary translation studies. The authors substantiate three fundamental scientific concepts: non-equivalent lexicon as an ontological basis for encoding the ethnic picture of the world, the dialectics of interaction between structural and semantic dominants, and the diffusion of the "national" seme as a text-forming category. Based on classical Ukrainian poetry and its foreign language interpretations, the mechanisms for preserving compositional integrity during the reproduction of lexical gaps are identified. The article proposes a new methodological basis for analyzing "untranslatability" through the lens of compositional "signal lights" within the text.

Keywords: translatology, translation studies, non-equivalent lexicon, strong position, poetic text composition, ontological coding, "national" seme, ethnocultural picture of the world.

Introduction

In the contemporary linguistic paradigm and translation theory (translatology), increasing attention is paid to the study of the language picture of the world as a complex invariant realized through artistic, scientific, and religious models. In Ukrainian translation studies, the issue of reproducing poetic texts – which are, by nature, the most concentrated embodiment of national identity – is particularly acute. A key element ensuring this identity is non-equivalent lexicon (NEL) – words that lack direct equivalents in the target language of translation.

As evidenced by the analysis of scientific sources, particularly the work of O. Tupytsya, NEL in poetry performs not only a nominative but also a compositional function. It becomes a "strong position" (SP) of the text – a point of maximum semantic concentration that determines the hierarchy of meanings. Despite a significant number

of studies in the field of linguocountry studies, there is a need to generalize theoretical concepts that explain the mechanics of NEL's influence on the architectonics of a poetic work and the strategies for its successful translation into another linguoculture.

Purpose and objectives of the study

The purpose of this article is to integrate theoretical propositions regarding non-equivalent lexicon and strong positions of the text into a unified translational model. In accordance with the purpose, the following objectives have been defined: to generalize the main provisions regarding the classification of NEL in poetry; to reveal the essence of the authors' scientific concepts (ontological coding, dialectics of SP, and the national seme); and to analyze practical difficulties in translating NEL as textual dominants.

Research results and discussion

A poetic text as an object of translation is characterized by excessive informativeness and complex organization. The semantic integrity of the work is ensured by a system of strong positions, which traditionally include the title, epigraph, the beginning and end of the work, as well as lexical repetitions and symbols. Our research proves that non-equivalent lexicon formally and semantically belongs to the group of the most significant SPs.

First and foremost, it is necessary to discuss the classification of NEL functioning in the poetic space. Based on the analysis of poetic contexts, we have identified three main groups:

1. **Proper names (anthroponyms and toponyms):** Units such as Dnipro, Khortytsia, Taras, which in Ukrainian poetry are not merely geographical or personal names but codes of historical memory.

2. **Symbolic words:** Lexemes such as kalyna (guelder-rose), topolia (poplar), vyshyvanka, which have deep roots in folklore traditions and mythopoetics.

3. **Realities (realia):** Names of household items, clothing, and weapons (kobzar, bulava, keptaryk) that mark the cultural space.

However, the true scientific novelty of our work lies in the substantiation of three interrelated concepts that explain the nature of these units from a translational perspective.

CONCEPT 1: ONTOLOGICAL CODING AND THE EXISTENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

We assert that NEL serves as the ontological basis for encoding the poetic text. This means that a non-equivalent word is not an additional decorative element but a "compressed" program for the development of meaning. An existential perspective passes through the non-equivalent unit, providing the entire text with its distinctiveness. For example, the image of the kozak (Cossack) in Ukrainian poetry encodes an entire system of values: freedom, death for the faith, and nobility. In translations into European languages (e.g., German), simplification to "Reiter" (rider) destroys the ontological code, transforming the hero into a simple functionary and depriving the text of its existential core.

CONCEPT 2: DIALECTICS OF STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC STRONG POSITIONS

The second concept reveals the mechanism by which the meaning of NEL is enhanced through its placement in the composition. When semantic non-equivalency coincides with the end of a stanza (rhyme) or the title, an effect of "double prominence" arises. The dialectical relationship between the position in the structure and the national content makes these units "focal points" of the semantic fabric. For translatology, this means that the translator must identify these points and strive to preserve their hierarchical status, even at the cost of certain lexical transformations.

CONCEPT 3: THE "NATIONAL" SEME AS A TEXT-FORMING FACTOR

Special attention should be paid to the identification of the "national" seme as a leading text-forming category. The presence of NEL in a poem creates a specific semantic field. The "national" seme diffuses (spreads) to neutral words, "nationalizing" the entire context. For instance, in V. Symonenko's poetry: "You will grow up, my son, and set out on your way / Willows and poplars will grow with you", the non-equivalent symbols *verba* (willow) and *topolia* (poplar) make the neutral words *syn* (son) and *doroha* (way) part of the Ukrainian cultural landscape. A translation that does not account for this diffusion risks becoming "sterile" and devoid of the original's soul.

For clarity, let us consider strategies for translating NEL as strong positions in a comparative aspect:

| Type of NEL | Example | Role in Composition | Translatological Strategy |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Realia | Kobzar | Central image-symbol | Transliteration with a cultural commentary to preserve the ontological code. |
| Toponym | Slavutych | Metaphorical name (SP - title) | Functional equivalent combined with an explanation of the river's mythological status. |
| Symbol | Kalyna | Dominant folklore image | Preservation of the plant's name with an emphasis on its symbolic meaning (purity, destiny). |

The discussion of the results indicates that the success of poetic translation depends on the translator's ability to recognize NEL as a "signal light." A problem in contemporary translatology is the excessive neutralization of such units, which leads to the loss of the text's compositional energy. Our concepts offer a way out of this situation through a strategy of "foreignization" (preserving otherness), where NEL remains a key element guiding the foreign-language reader toward an understanding of the deep layers of Ukrainian culture.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, non-equivalent lexicon is the foundation of the compositional structure of a poetic work. It acts as a strong position that ensures ethnocultural identification and encodes the national model of the world. The concepts we have

proposed – ontological coding, the dialectics of strong positions, and the dominant role of the "national" seme – allow for a new evaluation of the potential for translating the artistic word. We have proven that non-equivalency is not a deficit of linguistic means but a source of additional semantic energy that translatology must learn to effectively reproduce in the foreign-language space. Further research in this direction could focus on studying the pragmatic effect of NEL in contemporary free-verse poetry and developing algorithms for the automated identification of SPs in large text corpora.

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ШІ-ЧАТ-БОТИ У ВИВЧЕННІ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ: РИЗИКИ ТА ПРОБЛЕМИ ЗАЛЕЖНОСТІ

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У сучасному освітньому середовищі чат-боти на базі штучного інтелекту дедалі активніше використовуються як інструмент для вивчення іноземних мов. Їхня популярність зумовлена доступністю, інтерактивністю та здатністю створювати комфортні умови для мовної практики. Зокрема, такі системи можуть виступати своєрідним «ідеальним співрозмовником», який завжди доступний, не критикує користувача та адаптується до його рівня. Як зазначають дослідники, ШІ-чат-боти здатні забезпечувати середовище з низьким рівнем