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THE PROBLEMS OF MODERN SPECIALISED TRANSLATION

ПРОБЛЕМИ СУЧАСНОГО ФАХОВОГО ПЕРЕКЛАДУ

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The article addresses the problems of modern specialised translation and its place within the system of translation practice and translation studies. It highlights the absence of a standardised term in Ukrainian scholarly discourse equivalent to the English *specialised translation*, while in translation practice texts of this type – scientific, technical, legal, medical, normative-legal, and others – currently constitute the overwhelming majority. At the same time, it is demonstrated that the theoretical understanding of specialised translation does not correspond to the intensity of translation practice, which requires intensification of scholarly research in this field. The concept of the "specialised text," its main characteristics and classifications are examined. It is revealed that texts of this type are based on informativeness, terminological density, and specific structural-compositional and grammatical features. The relevance of typology of specialised texts for scholarly analysis is established, encompassing texts of both intra-specialised and extra-specialised communication. It is emphasised that specialised translation deals with texts related to professional activity and requires from the translator not only linguistic but also subject -matter competence, the ability to work with terminology, and to ensure accuracy of communication between the author and the target audience. The defining criteria of specialised translation quality are recognised as adequacy of content transfer, consistency with established terminology, and success of the communicative process. The stages of work with a specialised text are outlined: information search, documentation processing, translation with terminological precision, editing, and revision. In the conclusions, specialised translation is proposed to be considered as a type of translation activity aimed at interlingual reproduction of specialised information with semantic, functional-communicative, and stylistic equivalence. Prospects for further research are linked to applying the proposed definition and typology to the analysis of representative intra-specialised texts and popular-scientific texts of extra-specialised communication.

Key words: stages of work, classification, linguistic / subject-matter competence, terminology, specialised translation, specialised text, characteristics.

Статтю присвячено аналізу проблем сучасного фахового перекладу та його місця в системі перекладацької діяльності та перекладознавчих студій. Відзначено відсутність усталеного терміна в українському науковому дискурсі, який би відповідав англомовному *specialised translation*, тоді як у практиці перекладу саме тексти цього типу– наукові, технічні, юридичні, медичні, нормативні-правові та ін. – становлять абсолютну більшість на сьогоднішній день. У той самий час доведено, що теоретичне осмислення фахового перекладу не відповідає інтенсивності перекладацької практики, що вимагає інтенсифікації наукового пошуку у цій царині. Розглянуто поняття «фаховий текст», його основні характеристики та класифікації. Виявлено, що тексти цього типу ґрунтуються на інформативності, термінологічній насиченості, специфічних структурно-композиційних і граматичних характеристиках. З'ясовано релевантність для наукового аналізу типології фахових текстів, яка охоплює тексти внутрішньо- та зовнішньо фахової комунікації. Наголошено, що фаховий переклад має справу з текстами, пов'язаними з професійною діяльністю, і вимагає від перекладача не лише мовної, а й предметної компетенції, здатності працювати з термінологією та забезпечувати точність комунікації між автором і цільовою аудиторією. Визначальними критеріями якості фахового перекладу визнано адекватність передачі змісту, відповідність усталеній термінології та успішність комунікативного процесу. Окреслено етапи роботи перекладача з фаховим текстом: пошук інформації, опрацювання документації, переклад із дотриманням термінології, редагування та перевірка. У висновках запропоновано розглядати фаховий переклад як різновид перекладацької діяльності, спрямований на міжмовне відтворення спеціалізованої інформації з урахуванням змістової, функціонально-комунікативної та стилістичної відповідності. Перспективи подальших досліджень пов'язані із застосуванням запропонованого визначення та типології до аналізу репрезентативних внутрішньо фахових текстів і науково-популярних текстів зовнішньо фахової комунікації.

Ключові слова: етапи роботи, класифікація, мовна / предметна компетенція, термінологія, фаховий переклад, фаховий текст, характеристики.

Problem statement. In contemporary Ukrainian academic discourse, unlike in English-language discourse, there is no single established term that is fundamentally contrasted with literary translation. In English-language translation studies, the term "specialized/specialised translation" [1] is predominantly used; in contemporary research, it has almost entirely supplanted the term "non-literary translation" [2] as the counterpart to "literary translation." At the same time, Ukrainian studies use various terms in parallel – such as "informative," "professional," and "industry-specific", "specialised" translation – among which only the latter corresponds to the English-language tradition.

But, regardless of whether the terms are similar or not, it is precisely this type of translation that is becoming increasingly significant in our time. Translation practice in various historical periods has been characterized by the dominance of certain types of texts, which determined the priority areas of development in translation studies: from the translation of religious (denominational) texts to the study of literary translation [2, p. 9], and later – to an awareness of the specific nature of translating texts used in professional and specialized fields. Interest in specialised translation, as it is understood today, is a relatively new phenomenon. Its rise is linked to the rapid development of science and technology and a significant increase in the volume of specialised information, which has led to an expansion of the corpus of professional texts requiring interlingual processing [3, с. 31]. Translators are increasingly working with scientific publications, technical descriptions, regulatory and legal documents, instructions, and the like. In terms of volume, the share of specialised translation in the translation market at the turn of the second and third millennia accounted for 80–90% [4; 2; 1]. The growth in the volume and diversity of such material has brought to the forefront questions regarding its typology, genre- and style-specific characteristics, terminological organization, communicative purpose, and the specifics of its translation, thereby stimulating academic research in this field.

Analysis of studies and publications. The study of specialised texts has its roots in the study of languages for special purposes, since "modern research on specialised texts is based on the problem of ensuring high-quality communication through mechanisms of regulation and standardization of specialised communication, the primary goal of which is to ensure an unambiguous interpretation of the text's units of meaning" [5, с. 28]. It is emphasized that "the foundation of language for special purposes is specialised text, and its semantic foundation is units of specialized terminology." [6, с. 329], whereas a specialised text is defined as "a tool or the result of a completed linguistic-communicative process related to professional, socially productive activities" [7].

At the same time, there is also a view that a specialised text cannot be characterized proceeding from the concept of language for special purposes [8, p. 91–92].

Classifications of specialized texts based on various criteria are proposed [5; 9; 10].

There are also differing views on the definition of specialised translation: it is described as "the translation of specialised texts, the key characteristic of which is the reproduction of the source's specialized message (industry-specific information) using the means of the target language" [11, с. 18–19]; The goal of this type of translation is considered to be the accurate conveyance of information and the faithful reproduction of terminology, vocabulary, grammar, and style [12]. According to another point of view, specialised translation is defined by the field, text type, audience, and medium [13].

However, it is widely acknowledged today that specialised translation is underrepresented in the broader field of translation studies: there is only one peer-reviewed specialised journal in the world, the Journal of Specialized Translation [1]; in the three editions of the Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies, there is no separate article on specialised translation as a holistic phenomenon [14 та ін.]. This state of affairs runs counter to translation practice and points to the need to expand and supplement scholarly knowledge in this field.

Research aims and objectives. The *relevance* of analyzing the challenges facing modern specialised translation stems from its significant prominence in translation practice and the pressing need for a theoretical understanding of the field, which is clearly insufficient at present.

The object of this study is specialised translation, and the *subject* of analysis is its object, components and key characteristics.

*The purpose of this article i*s to clarify the theoretical foundations of research on specialised translation based on an analysis of scholarly approaches to defining and classifying specialised texts and defining specialised translation. Achieving this purpose involves the following tasks:

– clarifying the concept of a specialised text and its main characteristics;

– identifying a relevant typology of specialised texts;

– summarizing definitions of specialized translation and outlining the stages involved in the process.

Presentation of the main material. The main characteristics that define a text as specialised are as follows: the result of thought; general rules; unity of form; reflection of reality; scientific language; visual aids (diagrams, drawings, formulas, symbols) [5, с. 29–30]. The distinctive features of a specialised text are primarily evident at the lexical level; however, there are differences in the distribution of grammatical structures both between general-purpose and specialised texts and among different types of specialised texts [5].

R. Glezer formulated the following criteria for determining whether a text is a specialised one: terminology as an indicator; macrostructure as a conventionalized pattern; communicative situation; metacommunicative utterances; frequency of the passive voice and personal pronouns; stylistic characteristics (цит. за [5]).

Informativeness is considered a key characteristic of a specialised text [15, с. 555]. Specific characteristics of specialised texts include the predominant use of the present tense; the passive voice; a reduced role for verbs; an increased role for nouns; a higher frequency of the plural form; and the relatively frequent use of adjectives [12]; passive constructions and their active counterparts, simple, common, and complex declarative sentences, imperative sentences, and infinitive constructions with an imperative meaning, as well as modal expressions [5].

It is noted that, of the six functional styles, only the scientific, technical-industrial, and formal-business styles are characteristic of a specialised text [6, с. 328].

Understanding a specialised text as a unit of professional communication implies that knowledge and its internalization are closely linked to the recipient's subject-matter knowledge [16], that professional communication involves a change in the knowledge system of the individual and the field through established linguistic models used by experts [17, с. 428].

In the process of classifying specialised texts, they are divided into two groups: texts of internal professional communication (representative, contact-oriented, directive, instructional) and texts of external professional communication (behavior-guiding texts, popular science texts, consumer texts, instructional texts) [5; 9].

Representative texts include: strictly professional texts (monographs, articles, dissertations, patent descriptions); derivative texts (reviews, abstracts, theses, minutes); introductory texts (forewords, abstracts of presentations); and quasi-texts (recipes, job descriptions, diplomas). Texts of intra-disciplinary communication are characterized by a higher degree of specialization and an informative function; the recipient must possess professional competence. Texts of extra-disciplinary communication are addressed to non-specialists and are intended to popularize knowledge [5; 9].

Understanding specialized texts and their key characteristics is important for research in translation studies, since specialized translation is defined precisely by the text's affiliation with a specialized field: "Specialised translation deals with texts that have been written or relate to a specific field of knowledge or professional activity, regardless of the target audience or purpose" [8, p. 8]. Literary and specialised translation are considered complementary macro-fields, while specialised translation is described as domesticating, oriented toward the function and needs of the target specialised community [18]. The core of specialised translation is recognized as the interlingual translation of texts aimed at transactional or informational communication [1]. It is also emphasized that specialised translation is a transfer of intercultural knowledge, the purpose of which is to transform the recipient's knowledge system [17, p. 432–433].

It must be acknowledged that the types of specialised translation (scientific and technical, legal, medical, etc.) are based on the functional and stylistic characteristics of the original text [11], just as with the requirement for accurate reproduction of content, established terminology, and adherence to the standards of translation literature in professional translation [19, с. 4]. Researchers also agree that specialised translation is based on translation (linguistic) and subject-matter (professional) competence [11, с. 19].

Terminology is at the heart of specialized translation, even though it accounts for only about 5% of its vocabulary [2]. Terminological accuracy in specialised translation is critically important due to the potential legal, medical, or technical consequences of errors [1].

Another key requirement for specialised translation is translator competence, since the translator acts as an intermediary between subject matter experts; their primary expertise lies in language and style, while subject matter knowledge is necessary for accurate interpretation and identifying instances that require further research. Specialised translation requires the ability to identify terminology and use standardised equivalents in the target language. The primary criterion for the quality of this type of translation is the success of communication between the author of the original text and the target audience's experts [20].

The stages of a translator's work with a specialised text include the following: searching for infor-

mation on the relevant topic; reviewing documentation in the target language; translating while ensuring consistency in terminology and the integrity of the document; and proofreading and editing, including by a subject-matter expert [19, p. 5]. It should be noted that, in the traditional sense, revision takes place at the final stage of human translation, while post-editing is performed on machine-generated output. According to the BS EN ISO 17100:2015 standard, revision is a bilingual review of the translation by a person other than the translator [1].

Conclusions. An analysis of scholarly approaches provides grounds for considering the specialised text as the fundamental object of specialised translation and for viewing it as a specific communicative product of a particular subject area, characterized by thematic, terminological, structural-compositional, grammatical, and stylistic features. The defining characteristics of a specialised text include not only terminology but also extralinguistic factors, the communicative situation, and the text's structure and functional purpose. The most relevant for scholarly analysis is the typology of specialised texts, which allows for the inclusion of texts from both intra– and extra-disciplinary communication, including scholarly and popular science texts.

By "specialised translation," we mean a type of translation activity aimed at the cross-linguistic reproduction of specialised information presented in texts from a specific subject area (specialised texts), while ensuring its accuracy in terms of content, terminology, function, communication, and style, taking into account the specifics of the source text, the target audience, and the communicative situation.

Prospects for further research involve applying the theoretical principles outlined here to the analysis of two types of specialised translations: representative texts within a specific field (specialised texts proper) and popular science texts involving communication outside that field.

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