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FEATURES OF TRANSLATING SOCIO-POLITICAL DISCOURSE ON THE OFFICIAL UN WEBSITE IN UKRAINE

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ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ПЕРЕКЛАДУ СУСПІЛЬНО-ПОЛІТИЧНОГО ДИСКУРСУ НА ОФІЦІЙНОМУ САЙТІ ООН В УКРАЇНІ

Objective. *The objective of the study is to assess the impact of grammatical transformations on the accuracy and perception of content when translating materials from the official UN website in Ukraine from English to Ukrainian. The relevance of the research is highlighted by the increasing importance of socio-political discourse in international communications, particularly regarding the topics related to Russia's aggression against Ukraine.*

Methods. *The methods employed involve complex of general scientific methods, method of systematization, theoretical method, component analysis, special linguistic methods which allow to analyze grammatical translation transformations and define their role in ensuring the adequacy of translation.*

Results. *The results indicate that these transformations are essential in maintaining the original message's integrity and providing reliable information about the activities of officials and institutions amidst the ongoing hybrid war between Russia and Ukraine. A translation analysis of speeches from the official UN website in Ukraine was conducted. A sample of 122 transformations applied in translating materials was analyzed for the usage frequency. 63 lexical and 59 grammatical transformations were identified (10 zero translations, 18 substitutions, 13 additions, 5 omissions, and 13 rearrangements). The study showed that the leader among grammatical transformations was substitution. The frequency of substitution in grammatical transformations, demonstrating a significant numerical advantage over others, highlights the substantial grammatical differences*

between the English and Ukrainian languages (analytic and synthetic, respectively). Moreover, this also indicates differences in verb tenses, noun number forms, and verb forms and modes.

Key words: *socio-political discourse, translation transformations, substitution, addition, zero translation, omission, rearrangement, UN*

Introduction

The translation of socio-political discourse has become an increasingly important area of study, especially in the context of the globalized world and growing geopolitical tensions. In particular, translating content from the official UN website in Ukraine presents unique challenges due to the complex and sensitive nature of the topics discussed, especially in light of the ongoing conflict and Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The accuracy and adequacy of translation are crucial in ensuring that the original message is preserved, while also addressing the linguistic and cultural nuances of the target language. This article explores the distinctive features and strategies involved in translating socio-political texts from English into Ukrainian, highlighting the role of translation transformations in maintaining the integrity of the original discourse. The focus is on the translation of materials from the official UN website in Ukraine, emphasizing the importance of precise language use and effective communication in such a high-stakes context.

The research **objective** is to assess the impact of grammatical transformations on the accuracy and perception of content when translating materials from the official UN website in Ukraine from English to Ukrainian. The relevance of the research is highlighted by the increasing importance of socio-political discourse in international communications, particularly regarding the topics related to Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Methods

The methods employed involve complex of general scientific methods, method of systematization, theoretical method, component analysis, special linguistic methods which allow to analyze grammatical translation transformations and define their role in ensuring the adequacy of translation.

Results and Discussions

Before proceeding to the analysis of translation transformations, it is essential to consider the concept of "discourse." In linguistics, discourse is a multifaceted phenomenon beyond mere word exchange in oral communication. Discourse combines language and culture, shaping the interaction between speaker and listener. American linguist Z. Harris notes that linguistic units derive meaning from their use in a specific communicative act. This approach helps us understand that discourse is a means of exchanging information and a dynamic process reflecting external conditions and influencing social norms [5, p. 112]. The same idea was supported by his successor, French linguist E. Benveniste, who emphasized that in political contexts, the functions of linguistic units unfold through use, making discourse a genuine "arena of meanings". Thus, we understand that the preservation of the content and context of the original depends directly on the quality of the translation, which, in turn, determines the adequacy of its perception by the listener or reader [3, p. 66].

Compared to the general concept of "discourse", "socio-political discourse" is significantly more complex. It integrates linguistic, social, and political aspects, where language serves not only as a means of information transmission but also as a tool for influencing public opinion and shaping political image. The main characteristics of socio-political discourse include:

1. Engaging a wide range of communicative acts and practices in the political sphere.
2. Operating within a complex network of social, cultural, and institutional processes that interact with the broader socio-political environment.
3. Utilizing specific political vocabulary.
4. Close connection with state policy, governance processes, and societal issues.
5. Integration of various forms of communication, including speeches, debates, interviews, legislative processes, media, and online interactions.

6. Promoting the dissemination of information, presenting competing viewpoints, and shaping public opinion.

7. A normative aspect that regulates discourse through rules, traditions, and conventions, defining acceptable forms of expression and interaction in political environments.

8. Inclusiveness, involving a broad range of participants in the discourse [9, p. 17].

Translating socio-political discourse, one of the most widespread types of discourse involves navigating a complex network of social, cultural, and institutional dynamics that form a broader socio-political context. Culture-specific words are discourse key features that lack exact equivalents but have contextual substitutes as translation transformations.

The translation of socio-political discourse in political speeches in Ukrainian (based on materials from the official UN website in Ukraine) involves the aforementioned culture-specific words, which have been studied by scholars such as A. Fedorov, H. Chernov, L. Sobolev, and Bulgarian researchers S. Vlahov and S. Florin. These researchers agree that culture-specific words are lexemes or word combinations that semantically correspond to a single word. Such words are characteristic of a specific country, culture, or people, embodying unique experiences accessible to a limited audience [3, p. 14].

Culture-specific words function as an integral part of the translation process, representing more than simple lexical units – they encapsulate subtle contexts and meanings embedded in the socio-political framework of the text. Skillfully rendering them through translation transformations allows the translator to emphasize key elements in the socio-political discourse that form its narrative foundation. In the context of socio-political discourse, where every word carries significant weight and meaning, accurately reproducing culture-specific words is not merely a preference but a standard and requirement. Therefore, precise translation through transformations becomes a crucial component of the process, ensuring equivalence and adequacy to the original while adapting the discourse to the nuances of the target language and culture. This facilitates intercultural communication and promotes a deeper understanding of socio-political phenomena in various linguistic contexts.

According to Ukrainian linguist V. Manakin, socio-political realias include:

- Administrative-territorial structure (administrative units, settlements, and elements of settlements).
- Government bodies and officials (government institutions and officials).
- Socio-political life (political activities and figures, patriotic and social movements, societal phenomena and groups, ranks, titles, forms of address, and institutions).
- Military realias (units, weapons, uniforms, and military personnel) [10, p. 65–67].

Drawing on these principles, attention is directed to the peculiarities of reproducing socio-political discourse in political speeches from the UN's official website in Ukraine, particularly how culture-specific words are conveyed in translation.

For example, in the category of *administrative-territorial structure*:

1. Administrative units: “*on the Black Sea* [13] – у Чорному морі [7]”, “*Ukraine* [13] – “України [7]”, “*in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts* [11] – у Донецькій та Луганській областях [17]”.

2. Settlements: «*of Novhorodske* [11] – у Новгородському [17]”.

3. Elements of settlements: “*three key Ukrainian ports...Odesa, Chornomorsk and Yuzhny* [13] – трьох ключових українських портів... “Одеса”, “Чорноморськ” та “Южний” [7]», “*in Druzhba school* [11] – в школі “Дружба” [17]”.

For *government bodies and officials*:

1. Governmental institutions: “*the government of Türkiye* [13] – уряд Туреччини [7]”, “*the Presidency and the new Government of Ukraine*» [11] – “Керівництво та новий уряд України [36]”, “*in the Verkhovna Rada* [11] – у Верховній Раді [17]”.

2. Officials: “*President* [13] – Президент [7]”.

Words-realias for the reproduction of *social and political life* include the following:

1. Political activities and figures: “*President Erdoğan* [13] – “пане Президенте Ердоган [7]”, “*agreement* [13] – угода [7]”, “*President Zelenskyy* [13] – Президентом Зеленським [7]”, “*the United Nations* [13] – Організації Об’єднаних Націй [7]”.

1. Patriotic and social movements and their representatives: “*Generation Equality* [11] – *Покоління Рівності* [17]”.

2. Social phenomena and movements: “*Women’s Day* [11] – *Міжнародний Жіночий День* [17]”.

3. Ranks, titles, and forms of address: “*Your Excellency* [13] – *Ваша Високоповажносте* [7]”.

4. Institutions; educational and cultural establishments: “*inter-generational community center and community historical-cultural club*” [11] – “*громадського центру*» та «*громадського історико-культурного клубу*” [17]”, “*Women’s Studio of Civil Initiatives* [11] – *Жіночу студію громадських ініціатив* [17]”.

5. Classes and castes, and their members: “*women public servants, community mobilizers, humanitarian workers and volunteers* [11] – *державних службовиць, громадських службовиць, гуманітарних працівниць та волонтерок* [17]”.

Examples of military realias were not identified in the analyzed speeches. It is worth noting that culture-specific word translation often involves a zero-translation strategy to avoid misunderstandings.

The analyzed examples illustrate that the reproduction of socio-political discourse in political speeches on the UN’s official website in Ukraine largely relies on “culture-specific words,” as explored by A. Fedorov, G. Chernov, L. Sobolev, S. Vlachov, and S. Florin. Using V. Manakin’s classification, it is evident that these words encompass diverse aspects of socio-political life, such as administrative-territorial structure, government bodies, and societal phenomena. However, the topic of military realias is notably avoided, limited to terms like “contact line,” “military conflict,” or, less frequently, “war”. This suggests that Western socio-political discourse is not fully prepared to integrate Ukraine’s war-related narratives into its informational space.

The socio-political discourse can shape political priorities, and translation transformations play a crucial role in ensuring the adequate transmission and perception of political and cultural messages. Their study is particularly important, as research confirms that the choice of translation methods significantly influences the perception of texts and the formation of political meanings. In the context of the war in Ukraine, precise information reproduction is of paramount importance, enabling media to disseminate truthful information to the Ukrainian public about the activities of international organizations, the course of the Russia-Ukraine war, and Ukraine’s perception on the global stage.

Ukrainian researcher V. Koptilov defines translation transformations as methods of adapting the original text to the target language to preserve its content, function, and style. Moreover, based on the works of S. Maksymov, V. Karaban, V. Koptilov, and H. Sydoruk, a tendency to classify transformations into two types (lexical and grammatical) can be identified [1, p. 147]. Lexical transformations include generalization, differentiation, specification, compensation, negation, affirmation, annulment, and content development; grammatical transformations include zero translation, substitution, addition, omission, and rearrangement.

By conducting a translation analysis of speeches from the official UN website in Ukraine, we worked with a sample of 122 transformations applied in translating materials and analyzed the frequency of their usage. Specifically, 63 lexical and 59 grammatical transformations were identified (10 zero translations, 18 substitutions, 13 additions, 5 omissions, and 13 rearrangements). This article presents examples of grammatical transformations.

1. **Zero translation.** For example, “...*when hugs, handshakes and large gatherings are ill advised due to health risks* [2] – ...коли обійми, рукостискання та великі збори не рекомендуються через ризики для здоров’я [17]”, and “...*Ukraine has made important strides towards ensuring equal rights* [3] – *Україна здійснила важливі кроки для забезпечення рівних*

прав [12]”. Thanks to the application of a grammatical transformation such as zero translation, the translator is able to preserve the integrity and adequacy of the original messages’ essence to the maximum extent. That is, by refraining from making any changes, zero translation served as a tool for maintaining the authenticity and consistency in both examples of translation from English into Ukrainian.

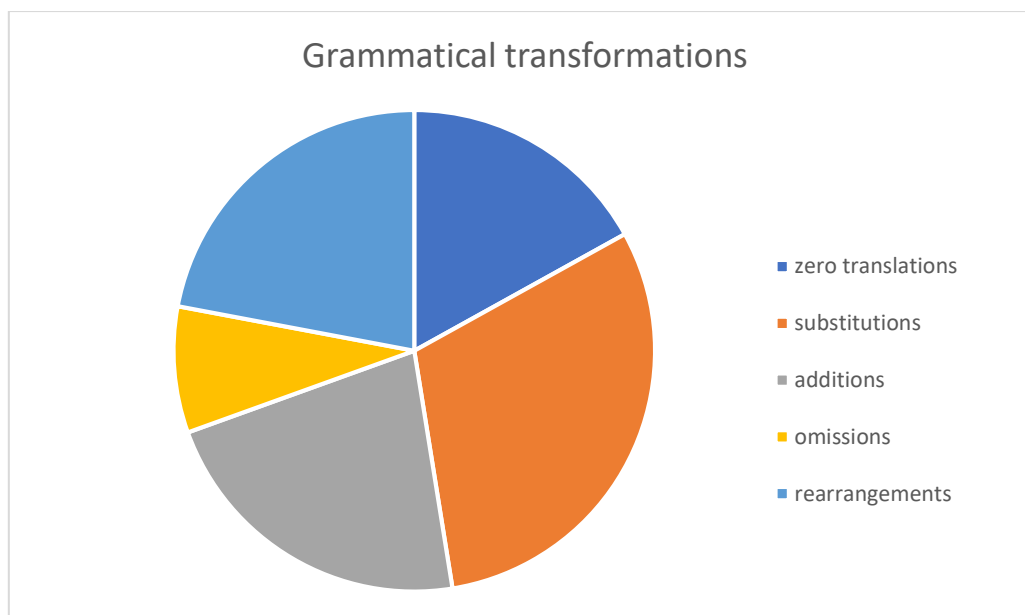
2. **Substitutions.** For example, “*By giving peace a chance and ending conflicts that jeopardize lives, futures and global progress* [17] – *Через надання шансу для миру і припинення конфліктів, які ставлять під загрозу життя, майбутнє та глобальний прогрес* [4]”. To comply with the grammatical rules of the Ukrainian language, the translator had to use the word “майбутнє” in the singular, as it is exclusively a singularia tantum. Unfortunately, due to this transformation, there is a loss of context, as the use of the word “futures” in the plural in English implied a reference to the future of each person individually. However, this does not affect the overall perception.

3. **Addition.** For instance, “*The Secretary-General UN Day message* [17] – *Звернення Генерального секретаря ООН з нагоди Дня ООН* [4]”. By increasing the total word count in the translation, which could not be avoided in this particular situation, as “UN” referred both to parts with the Secretary and the subject of the message, the translator once again demonstrates that the Ukrainian language is rich in grammatical structures. In the sentence, “*I call for ‘turbo action’ to advance gender equality in Ukraine* [12] – *я закликаю до людей до активних акцій задля просування гендерної рівності в Україні* [3]” there is a good example of the application of addition is where the translator adds “до людей” to the translation of the text, which, in essence, does not affect the context but in some way makes the message more friendly and includes an address to the target audience.

4. **Omission.** For instance, “*...how communities can still maintain connections...* [15] – *...як суспільство може підтримувати зв’язки...* [2]”. By resorting to the removal of the word “still,” the translator eliminates a pleonastic element, as the verb “підтримувати” already carries the meaning of “still doing something,” which positively affects the readability and comprehensibility of the translated text. A more striking illustration is the following use of omission: “*Delivered in New York* [14] – - [6],” where a part of the sentence is omitted, an entire sentence is cut without a clear justification for the necessity of such a decision. Although this does not affect the context of the message, it may lead to misunderstandings and confusion in the further use of speech materials.

5. **Rearrangement.** For example, “*The Secretary-General UN Day message* [17] – *Звернення Генерального секретаря ООН з нагоди Дня ООН* [4]”. Thanks to the rearrangement, the translator achieves the most grammatically acceptable word order in the target language in both speeches, which positively contributes to the reader’s perception of the text. Another example is this translation: “*This year has been a year of increased suffering and disconnection for those living in the conflict-torn region* [16] – *Цього року життя мешканців постраждалого внаслідок конфлікту регіону ще більше ускладнилось, і посилилось почуття їхньої ізольованості* [8]”. Here, we observe that the rearrangement is not simply for a visually pleasing effect but is used to position the phrase “конфлікту регіону” correctly, as in the original text, it is used as an adjective, whereas in the translation, the translator changes it to a noun. It is important to note that the use of rearrangement ensures the adequacy of the translation, as moving the noun to the front allows the reader to immediately understand the context of the entire sentence, rather than partially, which would have required re-reading the passage or reinterpreting this fragment.

To visually represent the quantitative ratio of different types of translation transformations in the analyzed speeches, a diagram was created. It shows that the leader among grammatical transformations is substitution. The frequency of substitution in grammatical transformations, demonstrating a significant numerical advantage over others, highlights the substantial grammatical differences between the English and Ukrainian languages (analytic and synthetic, respectively). Moreover, this also indicates differences in verb tenses, noun number forms, and verb forms and modes.



Conclusions

To sum up, we can highlight that translation transformations are crucial for reproducing socio-political discourse, especially in official materials published on the UN website. Their successful application ensures accuracy and adequacy in content reproduction, helping translators convey the socio-political context of the original without distortion. This is particularly important for raising awareness among Ukrainian audiences regarding current issues, considering the realities of today.

In conclusion, socio-political discourse and translation transformations are inextricably linked, where each lexeme requires a nuanced approach to achieve maximum adequacy in Ukrainian translations. Highlighting the use of translation transformations also reveals their impact on intercultural communication and readers' understanding of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, fostering a realistic and nuanced perception of the socio-political situation.

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Мета. Метою дослідження є оцінка впливу граматичних трансформацій на точність та сприйняття змісту при перекладі матеріалів з офіційного сайту ООН в Україні з англійської на українську мову. Актуальність дослідження підкреслюється зростаючою важливістю суспільно-політичного дискурсу в міжнародних комунікаціях, зокрема щодо тем, пов'язаних з агресією росії проти України.

Методи. Для дослідження було застосовано комплекс загальнонаукових методів, метод систематизації, теоретичний метод, компонентний аналіз, спеціальні лінгвістичні методи, які дозволяють проаналізувати граматичні перекладацькі трансформації та виявити їхню роль в забезпеченні адекватності перекладу.

Результати. Результати показують, що ці трансформації є необхідними для збереження цілісності оригінального повідомлення та надання надійної інформації про діяльність посадових осіб та інституцій під час поточної гібридної війни між Росією та Україною. Було проведено аналіз перекладів промов з офіційного сайту ООН в Україні. Проаналізовано вибірку з 122 трансформацій, застосованих при перекладі матеріалів, і визначено їхню частоту використання. Зокрема, було ідентифіковано 63 лексичні та 59 граматичних трансформацій (10 нульових перекладів, 18 замін, 13 додавань, 5 опущень, 13 перестановок). Дослідження показало, що лідером серед граматичних трансформацій є заміна. Частота замін у граматичних трансформаціях, що має значну числову перевагу над іншими, підкреслює суттєві граматичні відмінності між англійською та українською мовами (аналітична та синтетична відповідно). Крім того, це також свідчить про відмінності в часах дієслів, формах числа іменників та формах і способах дієслів.

Ключові слова: суспільно-політичний дискурс, перекладацькі трансформації, заміна, додавання, нульовий переклад, опущення, перестановка, ООН