

КУЛЬТУРА І ЦИВІЛІЗАЦІЯ: ПРОБЛЕМИ ФУНКЦІОНУВАННЯ І РОЗВИТКУ

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TRANSLATOR'S PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: BASIC PRINCIPLES AND PROBLEMS

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ПРОФЕСІЙНА ЕТИКА ПЕРЕКЛАДАЧА: ОСНОВНІ ПРИНЦИПИ ТА ПРОБЛЕМИ

*The **objective** of this article is to highlight and analyze the basic principles of professional ethics of a translator.*

***Methods.** The main scientific results are obtained using a complex of general scientific and special research methods, namely: analysis, systematization and generalization of scientific literature, induction, deduction.*

***Results.** Translators have long acted as mediators during communication between representatives of different language communities. The presented article reveals a topical issue regarding the problem of professional ethics of translators, which is relevant today. The main problems are that today there is no generally accepted code of conduct. The authors consider the ethics of a translator, which consists of moral principles, moral rules, norms of behavior in society and norms of behavior in a professional environment.*

The article is devoted to the study of professional ethics of a translator, which is an important aspect in the practice of language activity. The article analyzes the basic ethical principles underlying the professional activities of translators, in particular, accuracy, confidentiality, impartiality, and respect for cultural and linguistic differences. The professional ethics of a translator are important not only for ensuring high-quality translation, but also for maintaining trust between the translator, the customer, and other stakeholders. The research examines various ethical dilemmas that translators face in practice, in particular, problems related to distortion of content, manipulation of information, maintaining confidentiality, and the possibility of a conflict of interest. Issues related to ethical standards in various areas of translation are separately highlighted. Particular attention is paid to the development of professional norms and standards in the field of translation, as well as the role of these standards in shaping the moral responsibility of the translator. In conclusion, the article offers recommendations for translators to adhere to ethical principles and maintain a high level of professionalism, which include the continuous improvement of linguistic and intercultural knowledge, as well as participation in professional associations and certification programs. Thus, the study emphasizes the importance of ethics in translation as an important element not only for the

quality of work, but also for maintaining professional reputation and trust in the language community.

Key words: *translation, translator, ethics, translator's ethics, professional ethics*

Introduction

Professional ethics is a list of rules of conduct of a certain social group. It provides the moral character of relations, conditioned or connected with professional activity. It regulates the behavior of representatives of a certain professional sphere, so that their activities bring the best results and in order to eliminate undesirable consequences as much as possible.

Before discussing the basic problem of professional ethics of a translator, we would like to pay attention to the formation of professional ethics in general. In the Middle Ages, there was an increase in the number of trade unions and guilds, as a rule, closed. In the era of globalization, professional ethics are being mixed, and moreover, the function of punishment has been lost for most professions. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the proclamation of atheism, neglect of Christian values, as well as the general collapse of culture played a certain role in this. Especially for ideological purposes, anything could be distorted, the concept of “ideologically sustained translation” [6]. The concept of “ideologically sustained translation” was created for ideological purposes. In other words, professional ethics is a matter of conscience and honor of the employee.

The **objective** of the present article is to highlight and analyze the basic principles of translation ethics.

Methods

The main scientific results are obtained using a complex of general scientific and special research methods, namely: analysis, systematization and generalization of scientific literature, induction, deduction.

Results and Discussions

A translator's professional ethics are the basis of his or her work, as they determine not only the quality of the translation, but also the trust between all participants in the communication process. A translator does not simply transfer words from one language to another, but is also responsible for the accuracy, adequacy and preservation of the content of the original. Adherence to ethical principles, such as accuracy, objectivity, confidentiality and respect for cultural differences, is a necessary condition for a translator's professional reputation. Ethical standards help to avoid situations that may lead to manipulation of content, distortion of information or its misuse. This is especially important in areas that require high legal or scientific accuracy, such as medical or technical translation. At the same time, ethics ensure the harmonious coexistence of translators of different cultures and linguistic traditions, supporting intercultural communication. Failure to comply with ethical norms can lead to a loss of trust from clients and, as a result, to professional losses. Therefore, it is important for a translator not only to have perfect command of languages, but also to be aware of his role as an intermediary responsible for transmitting not only lexical content, but also cultural, emotional, and social nuances.

Firstly, we are aimed to define translation ethics. Translation ethics is a set of unwritten rules and norms of behavior of a translator in the process of his professional activity, with colleagues, translation customers, translation agencies and other participants in the translation act.

Compliance with the rules of business etiquette by a translator is one of the integral elements of his professionalism. It is knowledge of these rules that determines the skill of a translator, his high qualifications, and, accordingly, his demand in the labor market.

In the most authoritative reference and encyclopedic manual on translation problems “Handbuch of Translation” (1999), only the goals are indicated. The professional ethics of a translator consists of moral principles, norms of professional behavior and requirements of professional suitability. Compliance with ethical norms significantly affects the result of the translation.

Failure to comply with translation ethics can lead to almost complete blocking of information. There are many different codes of translators, the general provisions of which or the so-called

conditions of work of the translator are as follows: guarantee of confidentiality of information. Correctness of work: transfer of the maximum invariant of the source text. High level of competence in the field of the original language, the target language, translation techniques and the subject matter of the text [2, p. 11].

The translator and the author have always been separated in time and space. But now the professional ethics of the translator are being disregarded. The consequences of such “cooperation” can cost more than the money saved. The customer relies only on the recommendations specified in the work experience. The translator must be objective about his professional duties, skills and knowledge. Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer such specialists.

It is worse when the customer does not know the language of translation and relies entirely on the knowledge of the freelance translator. And, finally, trust in freelancers in general is falling. In his work, a translator inevitably has to deal with people of different professions, with texts of different topics and types. A person who constantly improves his personality, “grows above himself”, should strive for this [5, p. 132–133]. A good translator must be comprehensively developed, constantly develop and constantly develop his personality. This is the most important requirement in the work of a professional translator.

A translator must have a command of a foreign language at a level close to bilingualism, as well as knowledge of the culture of the people who speak it. A translator is obliged to constantly replenish the active vocabulary in both languages. In the 21st century, in addition to his own knowledge of translation, a translator needs knowledge of a PC, the ability to use electronic dictionaries and the Internet. A translator does not have the right to change anything in the text of the original or, accordingly, the translation at his own discretion, without obtaining permission or written instructions from the customer. It should be remembered that a translator is, first of all, a “translator” of the information transferred to him for work [2, p. 17]. For example, during translation, the professional duty of a translator is to inform the customer of the translation about errors or inconsistencies in the source text. The task of the present time is to develop general principles of translation ethics. No code or list of rules can fully cover all types of situations and circumstances. Professional ethics cannot be developed by ethicists, since they are outside this professional activity. This task lies entirely and completely with the translators themselves. In this regard, the translator's code should be generally accepted and its popularization is necessary. It should become something like the Hippocratic Oath. It should be borne in mind that this is only a moral and ethical foundation on which the translation activity is built.

M. Tymoczko in the book dedicated to translator's ethics provides some important rules of translation activity, including the following provisions [7; 8]:

1. The translator is not the client's interlocutor. He transforms an oral or written text created in one language into a text in another language.
2. The text is inviolable for the translator. The translator does not have the right to distort the meaning and composition of the text during translation, or change its volume, if the additional task of applying translation transformations is not set by the customer.
3. In the process of translation, the translator, using professional actions known to him, in one way or another, strives to fully convey the invariant, for example information intended to convey the original text.
4. When translating, the translator is obliged to adhere to the rules of ethics of oral communication, business etiquette, respecting the freedom of the client's personality.
5. In certain cases, in the situation of consecutive or simultaneous oral translation, the translator also becomes a person who has diplomatic powers. If they are recognized for the translator, he has the right to allow some inaccuracy in the original text, while being an auxiliary person in supporting diplomatic relations, but should not protect the interests of any particular party.
6. The translator should not react emotionally to individual defects in the speaker's speech and reflect them in the translation. In oral translation, one should focus on the oral version of the literary norm of the language of translation.

7. In other cases, the translator does not have the right to interfere in the relations of the parties, as well as to indicate his own position regarding the content of the translated text.

8. The translator must take care of his health, because the quality of the translation largely depends on the physical condition of the translator.

9. In the process of written translation, the translator is obliged to adhere to the rules of its design, which is guaranteed to ensure a correct attitude towards the customer.

10. A translator must immediately signal his / her insufficient competence, for instance, insufficient level of knowledge and experience necessary for effective translation activities, and correct any mistakes he/she notices, rather than hide them. The above information is a guarantee of high-quality translation and trust in him/her by others.

11. A translator must maintain confidentiality regarding the content of the translated text and not disclose it unless absolutely necessary.

There are things that a decent person should do simply because of his decency. A translator can generally consider high moral qualities as one of the main components of his professional competence. Simply put, we work because we are trusted. We work because we do our job well.

The most important unwritten rule of a translator is not to tell others about what you learned while translating. However, in practice, this prohibition applies to everything you saw and heard at work (if you are confident in your common sense). In particular, telling a friend that the president of a corporation has a very nice secretary is one thing. But quoting from memory items for sale at an auction as a way to plug a hole in the balance sheet is quite another [4, p. 23]. We should not disclose confidential information of a company or organization (information that is not known to the general public and, if disclosed, could harm the company's reputation or the competitive position of that company or organization). We should take this seriously.

A slight movement of the tongue can not only damage your reputation, but also cause serious legal consequences for yourself. People in power hate it when someone spills important data, even if you have never signed a separate non-disclosure agreement. Even if you take into account the terrible situation with law enforcement in our country, there is no need to worry about money or reputation. According to one of the "bigwigs", "sometimes such questions arise during negotiations that you can shoot the translator later". Thus, we must be prepared for such a high level of security and keep our mouths shut, at least for the sake of personal protection. The next point is to take on only tasks that you can complete. And here, again, we have a highly moral and cynical aspect. You can seriously disrupt the plans of others, spoil the impression and lead to the disruption of a meeting, negotiations or whatever will happen there. When you are recommended, as is often the case with us, you also substitute your recommender. Your reputation will be seriously damaged, and given the importance of reputation for an interpreter, this should be avoided at all costs. We hear disgruntled voices like "but you have to start somewhere" or "everyone wants to have work experience" [5, p. 134]. Of course, you have to start. In some cases, you have to resort to embellishing the truth in order to get a job. However, there are two options: one thing is when you are familiar with the topic and have read information in different languages or translated various texts in writing. And quite another – when you have no idea what it is; but you openly lie hoping to "float out" on your knowledge of the language. These scams are excellent material for interpreter fables, but a bad example to follow. And as they advise motorists, "if you are not sure, do not overtake." If we talk about the first steps, then no one forces you to immediately start with serious and responsible measures. Sometimes the employer himself says that it will be easy there and you don't need to know the terms to make your work easier. This is what good translation for beginners is.

Rule number 3 – never and under any circumstances criticize your colleagues. And one more piece of advice: if you want to do something better than others, then do it when you have the opportunity. In this regard, this also applies to conversations with the "civilian population" [1, p. 9]. Translators, of course, discuss with each other and other translators, and there is no getting away from it. On the other hand, there is an element of professional improvement in this. Stick to only constructive and objective criticism, in a friendly manner, without malice or gossip. Try not to say

about a person behind their back what you are ashamed to say to them. You should not immediately be offended and make excuses if experienced colleagues criticize you. Look for a grain of truth in their words and draw conclusions for the future.

Another rule – do not lure customers from others. So the essence of the rule is simple: if a translation agency sent you to work for a job, or your friend asked you to translate instead of him. You do not need to leave them your personal contacts and suggest that they contact you. This is bad and period. As for situations when you were simply “set up” with a client and you have no relation to him, there are also nuances here. They insist on preserving their sacred right to contact the client in this case as well. However, in our opinion, this is such an ethical gray area. Because intermediaries in the translation sector of Ukraine want too much, as we can see from our comment. Agents usually take a good half of the fee for themselves, while in civilized countries the agency commission is no more than 10 percent. After all, these are also huge expenses for rent, employee wages, equipment, etc. No one reproaches us – we need to learn to save, and we must learn to save. We are not talking about getting a call and finding the right person in the notebook (we are not talking about written translation, quality control, etc.). You can also say this: this is their fate, they already got it at the first stage. This situation can be compared to concluding an apartment rental agreement with a real estate agency (which also does not take any commissions, unlike translation intermediaries): the tenant and the landlord are “brought together” by an intermediary who receives a certain commission for each transaction. They have no right or even the ability to prevent the parties from concluding another contract without intermediaries after the expiration of this agreement. In the absence of categorical moral requirements, pragmatic considerations remain: if you “appropriate” the intermediary’s clients, they may find out about it and will not contact you. But still, think about it, decide for yourself whether to have problems with the intermediary or not.

We can repeat what we have already said: do not bargain. Do not agree to work at a price that is deliberately lower than the general level of pay in your field and region. And while you do not have experience yet – you can take it cheaper. Naturally, in this case, the first experience is usually gained this way. Therefore, many employers are looking for young people to work for themselves for a low salary, and also involve them in working for themselves. But in the event that you really decide to do this, be prepared for the fact that you will have to keep up the level [4, p. 28]. You can maintain contact with colleagues, be aware of current prices and not give yourself or others a pig. The general decline in the cost of translation is a consequence of some people agreeing to work for cheap, not to the benefit of translators. If you think that you cannot attract customers with the quality of translation instead of a low price, perhaps you should find other occupations. To be honest, it is cruel.

There are cases when the customer gives you some money for expenses or compensates them later (usually in the mode of translation-accompaniment). In this case, you take the “object” to a restaurant or opera and museum, take a taxi and go together to the hotel. To do this, you should always keep all checks, receipts and any other documents to confirm expenses (unconfirmed expenses may not be reimbursed to you), and secondly, never abuse your position. Suppose you can order yourself fancy meals and settle in a suite, and then include your “left” expenses for your own needs [6]. Understand that the money is allocated to the wrong person or group of people. You are only going as a “principal”. Of course, there are situations in which the expenses for you are the same as for the principal - for example, if the guest wanted tickets to the ground floor, it would not be strange to demand that the interpreter sit on the second tier. However, when you have a choice, be more modest.

In certain areas of translation, there are their own, more detailed norms, as can be seen in the example of a code of conduct.

Conclusions

Summarizing and summing up, the author draws attention to the following important points: the components of the ethics of a translator are moral rules of morality (moral principles), norms of behavior in society; the norm of behavior of a translation specialist contains requirements for translators to perform written and oral translations; the norms of ethics allow the translator not to make mistakes during translation. constantly improve his professional level.

A translator's professional ethics are an integral part of his work, which determines the quality of the translation and the level of trust between the communication participants. The basic ethical principles – accuracy, confidentiality, impartiality and cultural sensitivity – are of great importance for ensuring effective communication and maintaining a professional reputation. Translators often face ethical dilemmas, such as content manipulation, breach of confidentiality or conflicts of interest, which requires them to bear high moral responsibility. The development of professional standards and regulations in various fields of translation helps to define clear guidelines for compliance with ethical norms. To maintain a high level of professionalism, it is important to constantly improve knowledge and skills, participate in professional organizations and certification programs. Therefore, compliance with ethics is the key to a successful career as a translator and maintaining trust in the professional community.

Future translators should develop intercultural competence, as effective translation depends not only on knowledge of languages, but also on understanding cultural contexts. It is important to learn to balance between the accuracy of the content and the adaptation of the text to the characteristics of the target audience. It is recommended to work with different types of texts, receive feedback from clients and colleagues, and maintain professional ethics, maintaining confidentiality and impartiality in work.

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Мета даної статті полягає у висвітленні та ґрунтовному аналізі базових принципів професійної етики перекладача.

Методи. Основні наукові результати отримані з використанням комплексу загальнонаукових та спеціальних методів дослідження, а саме: аналізу, систематизації та узагальнення наукової літератури, індукції, дедукції.

Результати. Перекладачі з давніх часів виступають у ролі посередників під час спілкування представників різних мовних громад. У представлений статті розкрито актуальне питання щодо проблеми професійної етики перекладачів, які актуальні на сьогоднішній день. Основні проблеми полягають у тому, що на сьогодні не існує загальноприйнятого кодексу поведінки. Авторами розглянуто етику перекладача яка складається з моральних принципів, моральних правил, норм поведінки в суспільстві та норм поведінки в професійному середовищі.

Стаття присвячена дослідженню професійної етики перекладача, яка є важливим аспектом у практиці мовної діяльності. У роботі аналізуються основні принципи етики, що лежать в основі професійної діяльності перекладачів, зокрема точність, конфіденційність, неупередженість та повага до культурних і мовних відмінностей. Професійна етика перекладача має важливе значення не тільки для забезпечення високої якості перекладу, а й для підтримки довіри між перекладачем, замовником та іншими зацікавленими сторонами. У статті розглядаються різноманітні етичні дилеми, з якими перекладачі стикаються на практиці, зокрема проблеми пов'язані з перекручуванням змісту, маніпуляцією інформацією, збереженням конфіденційності та можливістю конфлікту інтересів. Окремо висвітлюються питання, пов'язані з етичними стандартами в різних сферах перекладу. Особливу увагу приділено розвитку професійних норм та стандартів у сфері перекладу, а також роль цих стандартів у формуванні моральної відповідальності перекладача. Підсумовуючи, у статті пропонуються рекомендації для перекладачів щодо дотримання етичних принципів та підтримання високого рівня професіоналізму, що включають постійне вдосконалення мовних і міжкультурних знань, а також участь у професійних об'єднаннях і сертифікаційних програмах. Відтак, дослідження підкреслює важливість етики в перекладі як важливого елемента не лише для якості роботи, а й для збереження професійної репутації та довіри в мовній спільноті.

Ключові слова: переклад, перекладач, етика, перекладацька етика, професійна етика