

**MODERN VECTORS OF SCIENCE  
AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT  
IN CHINA AND UKRAINE**

中国与乌克兰科学及教育前沿研究



**Harbin Engineering University**

**South Ukrainian National Pedagogical  
University named after K. D. Ushynsky**

May 19 – 20, 2015,

Odessa, Ukraine

**Karpenko Maksym**

Postgraduate student at the Chair of Lexicology and Stylistics of the English Language at Odessa National University named after I. I. Mechnikov, Odessa, Ukraine

**Stoyanova Tetyana**

Secretary of Confucius Institute at South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after K.D. Ushynsky, Odessa, Ukraine

**LEXICAL DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION OF ANCIENT CHINESE TEXTS INTO THE UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES (CASE STUDY OF THE CHINESE TREATISE “THE ART OF WAR” AND ITS TRANSLATIONS INTO THE UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES)**

The presented research deals with the difficult cases that might arise while translating Ancient Chinese treatises into English and Ukrainian. The original text of 孙子兵法 was analyzed in order to find the most common ways of translating Classical Chinese lexemes into English and Ukrainian. Some translation difficulties are outlined in the research.

*Key words:* Classical Chinese, Ancient Chinese texts, translation transformation, lexical transformations.

The translation of Ancient Chinese texts into the Ukrainian and English languages is *the object* of the study of many scientists. The lexical peculiarities of translation of the Classical Chinese treatises into Ukrainian and English are *the subject* of the study.

*The aim of the article* is to identify transformations applied when translating from Ancient Chinese into English and Ukrainian on the basis of the Chinese treatise “The Art Of War” and its translation variants.

Achieving this goal involves the following *tasks*:

1) to analyze existing studies on translation of Ancient Chinese texts into English and Ukrainian;

2) to determine means of translation of Ancient Chinese texts into English and Ukrainian.

The original text of the military and philosophical treatise Sun Tzu “The Art of War” written in Classical Chinese and its translation versions by S.P. Lesniak into Ukrainian [10] and by L. Giles into English [9] served as the *research material*.

The problem of selecting adequate means of translation of Ancient Chinese texts into different languages such as English, Ukrainian, and Russian is of substantial importance, because rendering an Ancient Chinese text while retaining most of its implicit meaning is a very difficult task.

The problem of retaining explicit as well as implicit meaning in the process of translation has been dwelt upon by many prominent specialists in the field of translation studies, such as: L. S. Barkhudarov [1], E. V. Breus [2], V. V. Vinogradov [11], G. Gachechiladze [4], V. N. Komisarov [5], L. L. Nelyubin [7], A. V. Fedorov [3], A. D. Shveitzer [8] and others. This fact determines the relevance of the work.

According to V.N. Komissarov translational transformations are the ways of translating that may be used by a translator during the process of rendering different texts into other languages in case when there is no lexical equivalent or it cannot be used according to the context [5, p. 172]. These transformations are numerous and qualitatively various cross-lingual conversions which aim at creating equivalent translation (“the adequacy of translation”); in other words – the smallest possible number of losses of information during the translation process in spite of differences between the formal and the semantic system of both languages [1, p. 103].

All translational transformations may be divided into groups based on the transition from the source language to the target language.

According to the traditional classification of translational transformations represented by V.N. Komissarov there are *lexical, grammatical and complex (lexical*

*and grammatical*) transformations. However, when translating Ancient Chinese texts, this classification needs a certain revision because of the difficulties which may occur during the translation process. The attention in our research will be concentrated on the lexical transformations.

Lexical transformation is a deviation from the direct dictionary equivalent. Lexical transformations, first of all, are connected with the difference in the number of meanings of lexical units in the source language and the target language. Thus, lexical transformations correlate with transcription, loan translation and some lexical and semantic changes like modulation, specification and generalization.

**Transcribing** is a method of translating the sound form of the source lexical unit by reproduction of its form using the letters of the SL (The Source Language) [5, 209]. The method of transcribing is rarely used while translating Chinese texts. It is more often used most to transfer proper names (anthroponyms, toponyms) and Chinese realia, which do not exist in other countries. An example of this transformation is the translation of the anthroponym 孫子 as *Sun Tzu* and *Сунь-дзу*.

**Loan translation** is a method of translating the source lexical unit by changing its component parts – the morphemes or changing the words using their lexical equivalents in the target language [5, p. 213]. Loan translation is a productive way enabling translation of Chinese texts into Ukrainian and English but its use is limited due to a specific grammatical structure of the Chinese speech. Due to a quite different word order in a Chinese sentence, means of their junction as well as an elliptical nature of the Chinese language (Ancient Chinese, in particular) loan translation is realized partially because of a frequent use of one-, two- or three-component nouns in the Chinese language. An example of this transformation is the translation of 黃帝 as *Yellow Emperor* and *Жовтий Імператор*.

The method of **modulation** or **semantic development** consists in replacing the vocabulary equivalent by a contextual and logically related equivalent [5, p. 219]. This includes various metaphorical and metonymical replacements. The essence of this method frequently used in translation consists in a deeper semantic interpretation

of a lexical unit or a phrase. Modulation is a frequently used transformation while translating an Ancient Chinese text because of its elliptic nature. An example is the translation of 發之 as *deliver your attack* and *не змарнуй шансу для атаки*.

The method of **concretization** presupposes substitution of a word in the SL by a word with a more specific meaning in the TL (the Target Language) [5, p. 215]. The concretization method is often used while translating the Ancient Chinese treatises into English and Ukrainian. According to the elliptic nature of Traditional Chinese, the use of the polysemantic lexemes is frequent. During the translation process, a necessity in narrowing a lexeme's meaning grows, which is achieved due to this method. An example of narrowing a meaning of a lexeme is 道 («direction / way / road / principle / truth / morality / reason / method / Dao / to say / to talk» [12]) when translating 修道 as *cultivates the moral law* and *розбудовує Шлях-Дао*.

The **generalization** is a method enabling substitution of a word with a more specific meaning in the SL by a word with a broader meaning in the TL [5, p. 217]. Generalization is not a frequently used transformation method when translating Ancient Chinese texts into Ukrainian or English because the used vocabulary in Traditional Chinese differs in broader semantics. An example of this transformation method is observed in translation of 聞雷霆 as *to hear the noise of thunder* and *навички чути грім*. Here the word 霆 which means *grumble*, is generalized to *noise* in English and totally omitted in Ukrainian.

The results of the research are summarized on Fig. 1.

**Fig. 1. The summary of lexical transformation usage**

Target languages	English translation		Ukrainian translation	
	Quantity	Rate	Quantity	Rate
Transcribing	19	4.35%	17	3.89%
Loan translation	25	5.62%	27	6.18%
Modulation	43	9.84%	39	8.92%
Concretization	59	13.50%	63	14.42%
Generalization	13	2.97%	12	2.75%

Other transformations	278	63.72%	279	63.84%
-----------------------	-----	--------	-----	--------

We can see that the most frequently used transformations when translating lexemes from Ancient Chinese texts are concretization and modulation. The usage of transcribing and generalization is limited.

To summarize, we can say that the translation of Ancient Chinese texts into Ukrainian and English has its own specificity. The amount of scientific works on the theme of the represented research is extremely limited including the number of actual translations, that is why the development of this sphere of translation is urgent. We intend to study the specificity of the use of grammatical alongside with complex (lexical and grammatical) transformations when translating Ancient Chinese texts into Ukrainian and English in our further research.

#### **Literature:**

1. Barhudarov L. S. Language and translation. – M.: Mezhd. otnosheniya, 1975. – 240 p.
2. Breus E. V. Translation theory and practice from English to Russian language. – M.: URAO Publ. house, 2001. – 104 p.
3. Federov A. V. The general theory of translation (linguistic problems). – SPb.: Filological faculty at SPbGU; M.: OOO “Publishing house “Filology TRI”, 2002. – 416 p.
4. Gechechiladze G. R. Artistic translation and literary interconnection. – M.: Soviet writer, 1980. – 255 p.
5. Komissarov V. N. Translation theory (linguistic aspects). Study guide for Foreign Language Institutes and Faculties. – M.: Vyssh. Shk., 1990. – 253 p.
6. Meir V.H. The Art of War, Sun Zi’s Military Methods. – Columbia University Press, 2007. – 189 p.
7. Neliubin L. L., Khukhni G. T. The science of translation (history and theory from ancient times). – M.: Flinta; MPSI, 2006. – 426 p.
8. Shveitzer A. D. Translation theory: status, problems, aspects. – M.: “Nauka”, 1988. – 216 p.

9. Sun Tzu The Art of War. – Thrifty Books, 2009. – 96 p.

10. The art of war by Sun Tzu (Sun Tzu binfa). Translated from the Traditional Chinese by S. Lesniak. Preface and commentted by S. V. Kapranov // internet recourse: [http://sinologist.com.ua/ukr/Chinese\\_Studies/2014/.pdf](http://sinologist.com.ua/ukr/Chinese_Studies/2014/.pdf)

11. Vinogradov V. S. Introduction to translation theory (common and lexicological issues). – M.: Publishing house of the General Secondary Education Institute RAO, 2001. – 224 p.

12. Xiao chuan huan shu, xi tian taiui lang [hanwen rumen]. – dongjing: yan bo quanshu, 1957. – 397 p.

周聪

乌克兰南方师范大学外语教育博士生

**Zhou Cong**

Postgraduate students majoring in foreign language education at South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after K.D. Ushynsky, Odessa, Ukraine

### 俄汉颜色词的文化内涵分析

颜色词除表示其本身的概念外，在不同的文化中还包含着丰富的内涵意义。由于不同民族的风俗习惯、思维方式、宗教信仰、民族心理等方面的差异，这些词汇能够产生不同的词汇意义。俄汉颜色词作为俄汉词汇系统中的重要组成部分是人们对颜色的认知在语言中的反映，颜色词不仅是对客观色彩的描述，还包含了人们的主观意识和评价，具有丰富的文化信息。

关键词：颜色词、红色、绿色、黄色、白色、黑色

## ON CULTURE CONNOTATIONS OF RUSSIAN AND CHINESE COLOUR WORDS