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RENDERING LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL REALIA IN UKRAINIAN TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH ALLUSIONS

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SUMMARY

The paper is focused on the study of linguistic means of rendering lingual and cultural realia conveyed by allusions in English political speeches and their Ukrainian translation. It is argued that allusions are among those linguistic means which not only provide the factual information, but also carry nationally-marked load. The authors maintain that despite the presence of some fundamental studies devoted to structural and semantic aspects of allusions, the ways of preserving and reflecting certain lingual and cultural information in the Ukrainian translations of English texts, the issue of rendering this information conveyed by allusions in the texts of English (American) political speeches has not been sufficiently investigated. Thus, the aforementioned justifies the urgent character of the given research. The work aimed at determining the tactics and linguistic

means of representing lingual and cultural realia in the texts of English inaugural speeches and their Ukrainian translations.

The conducted study revealed that allusions in the analyzed texts render lingual and cultural information alluding to both textual and non-textual referents. The textual referents are represented by one's own previous speeches, speeches of other politicians, biblical texts, folklore works, texts of state documents etc.; non-textual referents are the names of historical events, historical buildings, geographical features etc. The difficulty in preserving the lingual and cultural information in the translation can be justified by several factors, such as difficulties with identifying allusions in the text in case of non-nominated allusions as well as selection of the appropriate tactics of translation. The analysis proved that the linguistic and cultural information contained in allusions is mostly preserved in Ukrainian translations of the corresponding English-language texts of political speeches. Herewith, the kind of translation tactics and techniques depend on the type of the allusion — direct allusions are most commonly translated with the employment of transcription, transliteration, translation loans; indirect allusions — by means of contextual substitution, transposition, extension and omission.

Key words: *linguistic and cultural realia, allusion, political speeches, inaugural address, translation.*

Introduction. In modern linguistic and literary studies, special attention is paid to functional, structural and translation aspects of allusions, which explains the large number of scientific achievements in this regard. In particular, scholars determined the essence of the allusion (Vorobiova, 2011; Kopylna, 2007; Petrina, 2019; Reed & Kinsley, 2008; Yevseyev, 2019 et al.), analyzed allusions in the context of the implementing the category of intertextuality (Dronova, 2006; Petrina, 2019; Sunko, 2016 et al.), determined the functions of allusions (Vorobiova, 2011; Dronova, 2006; Tiutenko, 2000 al.), suggested typological classifications of allusions (Kopylna, 2007; Ryabinina, 2008; Statkevych, 2008 et al.), studied some lingual and cultural aspects of allusion's nature (Petrina, 2019; Yarema, 2014, 2106 et al.). However, in the presence of a large number of scientific studies on various aspects of the nature and functioning of allusions, as well as on the linguistic and cultural specifics of this phenomenon, there is an observed lack of fundamental works highlighting the peculiarities of reproducing linguistic and cultural information in the translation of English allusions into Ukrainian. Therefore, scientific investigations in this regard seem to be quite topical.

Aim and objectives. The aim of the study was to determine the tactics and techniques used for rendering linguistic and cultural information in the translation of English allusions into Ukrainian based on the material of political texts. The objectives of the work were to reveal the essence of allusion

as a literary and linguistic category; to describe the types of allusions used in English political texts; to determine the means of rendering linguistic and cultural information when translating English allusions functioning in political texts into Ukrainian.

Materials and research methods. The research was based on the texts of inaugural speeches of the three last Presidents of the USA — B. Obama, D. Trump and J. Biden, as well as their official translations into Ukrainian. In order to achieve the aim set, a range of the following methods was employed: *method of random sample* to form a corpus of study; *contrastive methods* to determine the specifics of translating English allusions into Ukrainian; *method of systematization and translation analysis* to study and summarize the linguistic means used for translating allusions from English into Ukrainian.

Results and their discussion. In the broadest sense, allusion is considered to be a literary act of reference to any previous textual or non-textual referent that assumes the presence of background knowledge (cultural, material, historical, geographical and pragmalinguistic), which the reader possesses concerning a certain fact and which evokes in him the appropriate associations (Halperin, 2016: 127; Zahnitko, 2012: 38).

Allusion is aimed at enriching the elementary utterances and the whole texts with accompanying knowledge, meanings and experience (Ben Porot, 2018: 42–43). Herewith, allusion is an economical way to actualize history and literary tradition (Halperin, 2016: 9).

Quite often the concept of allusion is considered in the context of intertextuality; thus, each text is actually a reaction to previous texts, and various types of allusion manifest this reaction building a “bridge” between past and present (Nikashina, 2016: 69). However, allusions may not always realize intertextuality, since in addition to appealing to previous texts, allusion also appeals to certain historical events, national and cultural features, i.e. to non-textual reality. Therefore, the allusion is a manifestation not only of intertextuality, but also of precedent (Petryna, 2019).

Linguists maintain that allusions are predominantly nationally marked, the latter is manifested in the ability of this phenomenon to “objectify linguistic and cultural concepts, restore the content of national and historical events, thus accumulating various cultural heritage of a particular ethnic group, elements of its spiritual experience and national development” (Petryna, 2019: 39). Therefore, one of the main functions of allusions is

traditionally distinguished as rendering the distinctive features of national mentality.

Allusions along with other linguistic means are considered to be a device of implementing certain lingual and cultural concepts, with the help of which the lingual and cognitive picture of the world can be realized (Mizin&Petrov, 2018).

The specifics of political texts, in particular, inaugural addresses aiming at appeal to the nation and the official proclamation of their own program of action for the years of rule, determines their profound national and patriotic orientation. Political speeches being strongly electorate, that is nation-oriented, are the plane of verbalizing numerous lingual and cultural concepts, manifestation of the essence of lingual and cultural information about the ethnos. All this affects the use of a significant number of allusions rendering relevant linguistic and cultural information.

The conducted analysis demonstrated that most allusions in the political speeches of American presidents have textual sources as a referent, fewer — non-textual referents (Fig. 1).

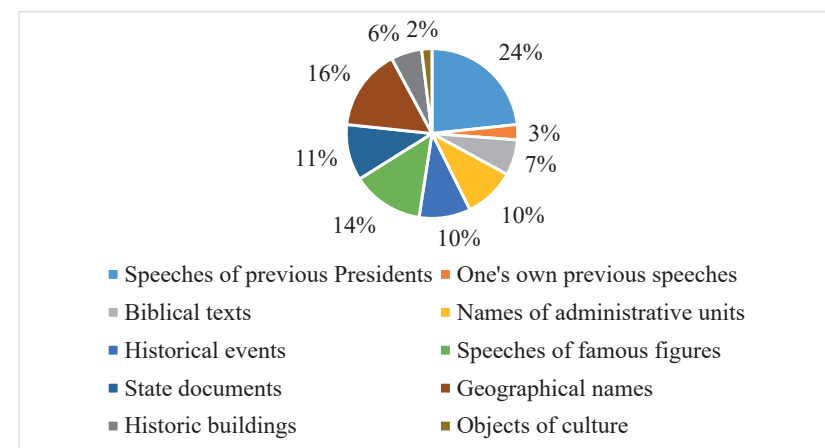


Figure 1. The amount of textual and non-textual referents of allusions in English political texts

As it is seen from the Figure 1 above, literary allusions (referring to a textual source) include references to speeches of previous presidents, other

prominent personalities (writers, politicians, poets), one's own previous speeches, government documents, and biblical texts. Allusions that have a non-textual source as a referent are represented by references to the names of geographical and administrative units, well-known names of historical buildings, historical events and some facts and objects of cultural significance.

Thus, a number of allusions in the studied texts referred to the speeches of previous Presidents, for example, in the inaugural speech of Obama's the utterance

Through blood drawn by lash and blood drawn by sword, we learned that no union founded on the principles of liberty and equality could survive half-slave and half-free.

contains references to the two speeches of Abraham Lincoln — one to the second inaugural speech released in 1865 —

...if God wills that it continue... until every drop of blood drawn with the lash...

and another to the 1858 “House Divided” speech —

I believe this government cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free.

In this case, the author of the text used truncated and transformed allusions, which can be inferred only by those who are well familiar with the relevant political texts, because the reference is indirect, it does not mention the author-source of the statement.

Quite often allusions are used to refer to the texts of famous politicians, writers, poets, etc. For example, J. Biden's states:

A cry of racial justice some 400 years in the making moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer,

which is a reference to the poem “Harlem”, written by African-American poet Langston Hugs in 1951. This poem is known not only to those who are well acquainted with the American literature, but also to children, as this work is part of the high school curriculum in the United States.

Among the documents of national importance, which are often referred to, are allusions to *the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights* etc. It is worth mentioning that, as the analysis revealed, most of these allusions are indirect, that is there is no direct referring words denoting the document's title, but the utterances are well-known to the general American public so that there is no need to explicitly nominate their sources.

There are also references to biblical texts that manifest linguistic and cultural realia, because Christianity in its Protestant version plays an important role in the spiritual life of Americans. For example, the text of Trump's speech contains an allusion to Psalm 132:2, which reads “*how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*”.

An important source of linguistic and cultural information among non-textual referents are the names of geographical and administrative units. The studied speeches of the Presidents were full of such allusions as *Seneca Falls, Selma, Stonewall, great Mall* etc.

A significant component of the nation's cultural heritage is also certain historical events that are understood and recognized by all members of the nation. Inaugural speeches of the American Presidents are rich in such allusions as *the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, 9/11* etc.

Thus, allusions to the textual referent in the studied English-language texts of political speeches prevail over non-textual ones, but both types refer to various sources, which helps to manifest the relevant linguistic and cultural realia.

Interpretation of any text depends not only on purely linguistic, but also on extralinguistic factors, in particular, on national and cultural stereotypes, and, moreover, on the reader's own cultural background knowledge and experience. According to N. S. Sunko, the background knowledge includes such purely national information, that is not shared by its other co-owners (Sunko, 2016). As already mentioned, allusions are essentially nationally marked units, which means that their translation should not only convey accurate data, but also take into account their national and cultural specifics. In this context, the question of the adequacy of translation arises, i.e. the possibility of the fullest possible rendering of the author's idea, because the main task in translating the allusion is “to preserve its associative background, ensure its recognizability by the recipient, which should evoke the necessary associations” (Kopylna, 2007: 23).

M. A. Ananina and B. A. Uskova, analyzing the difficulties of rendering linguistic and cultural information in the translation of allusions identified four ways of adapting cultural and historical information. Thus, as their pilot study revealed, in most cases allusions are omitted in the target language; in other cases, the use of explanatory elements in translation, the presence of commentary was fixed (Ananina&Uskova, 2014). However, the authors note that in cases where the translator places more emphasis on the

informative potential of allusion, there is a partial loss of functional features of allusion, as the effect of surprise, originality is lost in recognizing the reference by the reader. This feature occurs when commentaries or literal translation is given without any explanatory elements. If the translator aims to preserve the functional load of the allusion, he makes substitutions, when the allusive name unknown to the reader is replaced by a unit similar in meaning but with national specifics of the target language or is translated descriptively. In this case, there is a loss of cultural and historical meaning of the allusion (Ananina&Uskova, 2014: 23).

To summarize the aforementioned, it can be stated that the greatest difficulty in translating texts containing allusions is as follows:

identification of allusion — the translator must be sufficiently familiar with the culture of the nation in whose language the source text is written, in order to identify the appropriate allusion in the text. Direct references to well-known source texts, for example, the Bible, or the use of well-known toponyms or anthroponyms does not raise the question of belonging of this unit to the class of allusions; herewith, indirect references to quotes from famous people, film and television characters are often very difficult to find in the text.

in most cases, allusions are author's elements in nature and can occur in completely different contexts, which greatly complicates the process of identifying them by the translator.

lingual and cultural phenomena reflected by allusion can be unknown to the representatives of the target language (Krassa, 2012; Pavlenko, 2012).

The analysis of the means of rendering lingual and cultural information when translating allusions in the inaugural speeches of American Presidents revealed that the most widely-spread tactics of translating is that of rendering relevant information, which is going to be discussed below.

To preserve relevant lingual and cultural information in a number of cases the omission or adding of some factual information was observed. For example, the allusion in the inaugural speech of Trump, referring to the Gettysburg address of former US President Lincoln, is translated into Ukrainian as follows:

At the center of this movement is a crucial conviction, that a nation exists to serve its citizens.

У його центрі — ключове переконання, що держава існує для того, щоб служити громадянам, як казав колись Лінкольн.

Another example of mentioning the source, although it is absent in the English text, is observed in the example:

We will press forward with speed and urgency, for we have much to do in this winter of peril and possibility.

The allusion *winter of peril and possibility* is a reference to the story of a family trying to survive a difficult winter in Newfoundland, a story described in Jen Andrews' book of children, *Winter of Peril*. In order to preserve such indirect allusions and the corresponding implicit linguistic and cultural content, the translator resorted to descriptive translation:

Нам ще багато чого треба зробити, швидко і зараз, адже ми повинні зробити це саме зараз, у цю зиму загроз та можливостей, як йдеться у відомій дитячій казці.

Another means of preserving the relevant lingual and cultural information is transposition. It can be exemplified by the following passage:

In another January in Washington, on New Year's Day 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

For the target language, the modified phrase is used —

Свого часу, у січні, напередодні Нового 1863 року, Лінкольн підписав Прокламацію про визволення рабів.

In the cases of direct nominated allusions the most frequent occurred to be loan translations, like in the example below:

And whether a child is born in the urban sprawl of Detroit or the windswept plains of Nebraska, they look up at the at the same night sky, they fill their heart with the same dreams and they are infused with the breath of life by the same almighty creator.

This passage alludes to non-textual referent, Detroit Street (a reference that, as the research has proved, is often used in the inaugural speeches of presidents) as associated with metropolitan life and the Nebraska area. These places can be known to the Ukrainian audience; their additional sense — a noisy place and free countryside is created by using the words *the urban sprawl* and the *windswept plains*. In translation, the meaning of this statement is conveyed somewhat paraphrased, but with the help of equivalent elements, which thus convey the relevant linguistic and cultural information:

Неважливо, чи дитина народилась в міських багатоповерхівках Детройту, чи на відкритих вітрам рівнинах Небраски, вони споглядають на те ж нічне небо, вони наповнюють свої серця тими ж мріями, в них виріє життя, подароване Всемогутнім Творцем.

Quite a number of such examples can be found when referring to some popular metonymic lexems, which are nationally coloured, but at the same time understandable for the majority of people worldwide. It may be illustrated by the following example:

The White House will never agree on that.

Білий Дім ніколи не піде на таке.

A very common way of rendering the lingual and cultural realia when translating direct allusions is transcription and transliteration; it mainly concerns the proper nouns — names of administrative buildings, historic buildings, geographical features etc., like *Selma* — *Сельма*, *the Niagara* — *Ніагара* etc.

Sometimes, the Ukrainian translation omitted direct allusions completely, using contextual translation instead. For example, in the translation of the phrase

So now, on this hallowed ground where just days ago violence sought to shake this Capitol's very foundation, we come together as one nation...

the reference to the Capitol was omitted, probably because the audience, according to the translator, is not aware of this object —

На священній цій землі хтось намагався зважити самі підвалини демократії, але ми знову встали як неподільна нація...

Although the contextual meaning is preserved in such translation, some lingual and cultural information is lost, because Capitol is associated in minds of Americans with liberty and democracy, but the translation does not reflect this association.

Conclusions. Inaugural speeches of American Presidents can be regarded a quintessence of reflecting lingual and cultural realia of the American nation. The aim of their deliverers is to identify themselves with all that can be included in the concept of America-likeness to the most. Being addressed to the American electorate, such speeches proved to contain a lot of allusions to both to textual and non-textual referents, the sense of which is expected to be understandable for the American audience.

The difficulty in rendering the lingual and cultural information in the translation can be justified by several factors, among which are difficulties with identifying allusions in the text in case of non-nominated allusions and selection of the appropriate tactics of translation, which would allow to preserve and render the relevant lingual and cultural information.

Allusions to certain lingual and cultural realia in the texts of political speeches can have textual or non-textual referents. Textual referents are

represented by one's own previous speeches, speeches of other politicians, biblical texts, folklore works, texts of state documents etc. Non-textual referents are names of historical events, historical buildings, geographical features and so on.

The conducted analysis proved that the linguistic and cultural information contained in allusions is mostly preserved in Ukrainian translations of the corresponding English-language texts of political speeches. The type of translation tactics and techniques depends on the type of the allusion — direct, explicit, nominated allusions are most commonly translated with the employment of transcription, transliteration, translation loans; indirect, non-nominated allusions — with the help of contextual substitution, transposition, extension and omission.

The prospect for further research lies in the study of the most common and efficient ways of rendering lingual and cultural information manifested by allusions in other genres of formal register, as well as in the texts of other pragmatic orientation.

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ВІДТВОРЕННЯ ЛІНГВОКУЛЬТУРНИХ РЕАЛІЙ В УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ПЕРЕКЛАДАХ АНГЛОМОВНИХ АЛЮЗІЙ

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АНОТАЦІЯ

Стаття присвячена дослідженню мовних засобів відображення лінгвокультурних реалій, що передаються алюзіями, в англійських політичних промовах та їх українському перекладі. Зазначено, що алюзія є мовним явищем, яке несе певне національно марковане навантаження окрім надання фактичної інформації. Автори зауважують, що незважаючи на наявність деяких фундаментальних досліджень, присвячених структур-

но-семантичним питанням алюзії, способам збереження та відображення певної лінгвокультурної інформації в українських перекладах англійських текстів, питання відтворення такої інформації, що передається алюзією в текстах англійських (американських) політичних виступів, недостатньо досліджено, що визначає актуальність даного дослідження. Робота мала на меті визначити тактики та прийоми репрезентації лінгвокультурних реалій у текстах інавгураційних промов англійською мовою та їх українських перекладах.

Проведене дослідження виявило, що алюзії в аналізованих текстах передають лінгвокультурну інформацію, що відсилає як до текстових, так і нетекстових референтів. Текстові референти представлені власними попередніми виступами, виступами інших політиків, біблійними текстами, фольклорними творами, текстами державних документів тощо; нетекстові референти — це назви історичних подій, історичних будівель, географічних об'єктів тощо. Труднощі у відтворенні відповідної лінгвокультурної інформації в перекладі зумовлені кількома факторами — труднощами з виявленням алюзії у тексті у разі неномінованих алюзій, а також вибором відповідної тактики перекладу. Аналіз довів, що лінгвокультурна інформація, що міститься в алюзіях, здебільшого зберігається у перекладах українською мовою відповідних англійських текстів політичних виступів. При цьому вид тактики та прийомів перекладу залежить від типу алюзії — прямі алюзії найчастіше перекладаються із застосуванням транскрипції, транслітерації, калькування; непрямі алюзії — за допомогою контекстуальної заміни, перестановки, додавання та опущення.

Ключові слова: лінгвокультурні реалії, алюзія, політичні промови, інавгураційна промова, переклад.

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