

**Russian Translation of Slangs in English Fiction
- with special reference to Mark Twain's the Adventures of Tom Sawyer**

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ABSTRACT: *This paper is devoted to the study of the main ways of slang translation used in fiction, from English to Russian on the material of Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Work shows that during slang translation, such techniques as concretization, generalization, equivalent lexical substitution, omission and addition are used.*

KEY WORDS: English slang; Russian translation; the Adventures of Tom Sawyer

INTRODUCTION

Definition of Slang

Slang is quite common in works of fiction, since this style of speech is characterized by emotionality and expressiveness. The main functions that slang performs in fiction are: the description of a specific social environment, the speech characteristics of the hero, giving a comic shade to the situation or the work as a whole.

Problems relating to the translation of English slang in fiction were repeatedly considered in the works of Khomyakova, Belyaeva, Partridge, Flexner, and other scientists. Linguists offer many definitions of slang. Unusual definition slang is given in the dictionary compiled by Flexner and Wentworth. Scientists believe that American slang is those words and expressions which are used by a comparatively large number of the general population of American people, or which are understandable to the person, but, in the opinion of the majority, are not suitable for their official use in speech [10, p.15]. Smirnitsky believes that slang is a colloquial or familiar style of speech in a particular social sphere [4, p.201]. Arnold defines slang as colloquial words and expressions with a humorous or rude emotional shade [1].

Methods of Russian Translation

The material of this study was the original work of Mark Twain "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and its translation into Russian by Daruses. Slang in this work is one of the characteristic features of the speech of the main characters. An analysis of the ways of

translating English slang in the novel showed that when translating this work, Daruzes uses various techniques, among which are the following:

Concretization

Concretization is a method of translation in which a word or phrase in the original language with a broader meaning is replaced by a word or phrase in the target language with a narrower meaning [2].

Original: You're a liar! — You're another.

Translation: Врешь! – Сам врешь!

The expression **you're another** is usually translated into Russian as **from such I hear**. In this example, we can observe concretization in the way that a specific action is indicated during translation, a phrase with a broader meaning has been replaced by a phrase with a narrower meaning.

Original: Holler 'nuff! said he.

Translation: Проси пощады! – сказал он.

The word **to holler**, which is usually translated **to scream or yell**, is translated into Russian with a word with a narrower meaning - **to ask**.

Generalization

Generalization is a method of translation in which a word or phrase in the original language with a narrower meaning is replaced by a word or phrase in the target language with a broader meaning.

Original: Sidy, I'll lick you for that.

Translation: Я это тебе припомню, Сидду!

The phrase **to lick somebody** is translated into Russian, how **to beat**. In this example, Daruzes applied a generalization technique, replacing slang with a stylistically neutral word with a broader meaning.

Original: Say – if you give me much more of your sass I'll take and bounce a rock off'n your head.

Translation: Поговори еще у меня, я тебе голову кирпичом проломлю!

In this example, the generalization method was also applied during the translation. Slang **sass**, which has such an equivalent in Russian as **arrogance or insolence**, was transferred to Russian as **don't talk to me like that**.

Omission

An omission is a method of translation in which lexically and semantically redundant words and phrases are extracted from the text.

Original: By jingo! for two cents I will do it.

Translation: Давай два цента, отлуплю.

In this example, the slang **by jingo**, which has an equivalent in Russian **by God**, was not reflected in the translation.

Original: *Talk about trying to cure warts with spunk-water such a blame fool way as that!*

Translation: *Ага! Ну какой же дурак сводит так бородавку!*

The phrase a **blame fool** is translated into Russian as a **damned fool**. Blame as an adjective means **cursed**. In this example, the word cursed was omitted by the translator.

Original: *Good, – that's a whack. What's your name?*

Translation: *Хорошо. Как вас зовут?*

The expression **that's a whack (I agree, got it)** was omitted in the translation.

Addition

Addition - a method of translation in which the expansion of the original text occurs, associated with the need for the completeness of the transfer of its content.

Original: *Hi-yi! You're up a stump, ain't you!*

Translation: *Ага, попался, взяли на причал.*

The expression **You're up a stump** is usually translated as **getting caught, or getting into trouble**. Daruses translated this slang into its equivalent in Russian, and when translating, she also added the expression **took on the berth**, which is not in the original text.

Descriptive translation

Descriptive translation is a translation method in which the replacement of a word or phrase is used to clarify words and concepts unknown to the reader of the translation that needs internal explanation.

Original: *I'll give you a white alley!*

Translation: *Я тебе подарю белый с мраморными жилками!*

In this case, the translator used a descriptive translation of the phrase **white alley**. **A white alley is a large white marble ball for games.**

Compensation

Compensation is a method of translation in which the words and phrases of the original language, for one reason or another, do not have equivalents in the target language and cannot

be translated by its means; in such cases, in order to compensate for the semantic **loss caused by the fact that one or another unit of the original language remained untranslated** or incompletely translated, the translator conveys the same information by some other language means, and not necessarily in the same place in the text as in original.

Original: So he went away; but he said he — ‘lowed to — lay for that boy.

Translation: И он убрался, предупредив, чтоб ее сынок больше не попался ему.

The expression **he went away** does not have any stylistic reduction, but in order to compensate for previously untranslated slang, the translator reflects a stylistically neutral phrase in the original

language with the help of slang in the target language - **he got away**. We can observe the same situation in the following example:

Original: All right, go ahead; start him up.

Translation: Ладно, валяй; выпускай клещи.

Antonymic translation

Antonymic translation is a method of translation in which an affirmative construction is transformed into a negative one or vice versa, accompanied by the replacement of one of the words of the translated sentence in the original language with its antonym in the target language.

Original: Anybody that’ll take a dare will steal sheep.

Translation: Попробуй только, не обрадуешься.

As we can see, the English affirmative construction is transferred to the Russian negative one, and the slang **to steal sheep**, meaning **to regret something**, is replaced by its Russian synonym **you will not be happy**. This double change results in the same meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Original: Take a turn round that stump with the bight of it!

Translation: Ну, где же у вас канат, чего копаются?

In this case, the expression **to take a turn round that stump** is replaced, meaning **to move**, with its antonym **to dig**.

Equivalent lexical substitution

Equivalent lexical substitution is a method of translation in which words or phrases of the original language are replaced by equivalent lexical units of the target language.

Original: He's full of the Old Scratch, but laws-a-me! He's my own dead sister's boy, poor thing, and I ain't got the heart to lash him, somehow.

Translation: Он суций чертенок, я знаю, но ведь он, бедняжка, сын моей покойной сестры, у меня как-то духу не хватает наказывать его.

Slang **old scratch**, which means **the devil**, is translated into Russian as **an imp**.

Original: By the time Ben was fagged out, Tom had traded the next chance to Billy Fisher for a kite, in good repair; and when he played out, Johnny Miller bought in for a dead rat and a string to swing it with – and so on, and so on, hour after hour.

Translation: Когда Бен выдохся, Том продал следующую очередь Билли Фишеру за подержанного бумажного змея, а когда тот устал белить, Джонни Миллер купил очередь задохлую крысу с веревочкой, чтобы удобней было вертеть, и т. д., и т. д., час за часом.

The verb **to fag out**, meaning **to exhaust, get tired**, is translated by the word **fizzle out**, and the translation is quite adequate and reflects its essence.

Equivalent lexical substitutions can also be observed in the following examples:

Original: Rubbage! I don't believe it!

Translation: Пустяки! Не верю!

Original: Scat! you devil!

Translation: Брысь, проклятая!

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, such translation technique as concretization, generalization, omission, addition, compensation, and equivalent lexical replacement are used to translate the slangs in Mark Twain's novel "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". In addition, the translator resorts to descriptive and antonymic translation. Of course, slang is difficult to translate, because it has versatility and blurring of the boundaries between its components. It should be noted that during translation slang in fiction, the translator must take into account age, social and individual characteristics of the characters, and features of the language author. The task of the

translator is complicated by the fact that he needs to find such expressive means that semantically and stylistically correspond to the original and most accurately convey its content.

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