A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF CUSTOMS TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN

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Acest articol este dedicat problemelor de traducere a terminologiei vamale și reprezintă o cercetare a fundamentelor teoretice ale terminologiei, o analiză lingvistică şi terminologică a termenilor vamali şi un studiu comparativ al metodelor de traducere a unităților terminologice din engleză în română, bazându-ne pe termeni vamali din acte legislative și normative. Studiul este axat pe date istorice referitoare la dezvoltarea terminologiei și formarea termenilor vamali, în decursul timpului, precum și relațiile lor lexicale stabilite de către diverși oameni de știință.

Terminology looks like a dictionary to most people. Terminology is actually a form of expanded dictionary as it can hold phases and key terms used by each of us. Terminology is also important when several translators are working for the same goal. It ensures that all the key vocabulary is translated the same way by all the translators. "Terminology, the discipline concerned with the study and compilation of specialized terms is not a new field of study, but only in recent decades has it been systematically developed, with full consideration of its principles, bases and methodology" [1, p.9]. The opinion of E. Wüster is that "terminology is the discipline concerned with the study and compilation of specializes terms. Terminology is generally seen as an interdiscipline that deals with naming the concepts of special objects and their realization in linguistic form"[2, p.49].

The Russian lexicologist E. Mednikova defines the term as "a word or word-combination of a special (scientific, technical, etc.) language; a word or word-combination which is created, borrowed or adopted to exactly express the definite concepts specific for that science and name its special object" [3, p.79].

Customs term formation is considered to be a possibility of creating new symbols with the help of which we are able to name different concepts, events, phenomena that appear due to the development of science and technology. There are different types and methods of term formation. We analyze simple, derived terms, compound, abbreviated and borrowed customs terms. In the English language, we may create new terms and words with the help of already existing sources. Here we have several possibilities such as: terminologization and determinologization.

One aim of our Master Thesis was to survey an amount of 250 customs terms, 200 customs terminological combination and to observe all peculiarities concerning structure and of course, translation. We distinguish two types of translation techniques: direct and oblique translation. Direct translation includes: borrowing, calque and word for word translation or literal translation. Thus, terms are translated in different ways, these are the following methods of translation, which are characteristic for customs terms translation.

1) Word for word translation – this type of translation is known also as literal translation. E.g.: "***Customs supervision*** *is a set of measures taken by the* ***customs authorities*** *in order* ***to enforce customs legislation***" [4, p.2]. Translated into Romanian this sentence seeks to match the individual words of the source language as closely as possible to individual words of the target language, the order of words of the original language will be followed as closely as possible: "***Supraveghere vamală*** *– orice acțiune a* ***organului vamal*** *pentru* ***asigurarea respectării reglementărilor vamale***", we have rendered the example from English to Romanian, rather than conveying the sense of the original.

2) Translation by means of borrowing – the taking of words directly from one language into another without translation. Many English words are "borrowed" in Romanian language; for example: "*The small* ***business*** *questionnaire is stored and maintained in the Customs and Border Protection*". The same term was borrowed in Romanian: "*Micul chestionar de* ***business*** *este memorat și menținut în baza de date a serviciului vamal de frontieră (CBP)*". As we can see the term was taken from English and used in Romanian without translation.

3) Calque – The terminological combination: *trafic triunghiular* is a calque from the English language: *triangular traffic*. E.g.: "*Where compensating or replacement products are released for free circulation*

*under the **triangular traffic** system, information sheet INF 2 shall be used in order to communicate information on temporary export goods in **triangular traffic**, in order to obtain partial or total relief for compensating products*". In the Romanian language the word: *traffic* keeps the same form *trafic*, but the word *triangular* is translated and adapted to the Romanian language: *triunghiular*. As we can see from the provided examples the Romanian structure of the terminological combinations can sometimes be stranger from the target language.

Oblique types of translation are: equivalence, transposition, modulation and adaptation.

1) Lack of equivalence – The sentences "*it's easy to cross the borders of a democratic state*" and "*it's not complicated to cross the borders of a democratic state*", in this case the phrase is used that is different in the source and target text, but represents the same idea, e.g. "*Este ușor să treci frontierele unui stat democratic*", and "*nu este complicat să treci frontierele unui stat democratic*", by analyzing the translation we conclude that both convey the same meaning.

2) Translation with the use of equivalence – the term which has a different form in the Romanian language is: *smuggling*, e.g. "***Smuggling** has a long and controversial history, probably dating back to the first time at which duties were imposed in any form, or any attempt was made to prohibit a form of traffic*". It is translated as *contrabandă*, e.g."***Contrabanda** are o istorie lungă și controversată, probabil, datează de prima dată de cînd au fost instituite taxele, în orice formă, sau orice încercare care a fost făcută pentru a interzice o formă de trafic*".

Other important thing worth to be mentioned is that terms translated by means of equivalence are subdivided into three groups: total equivalence; partial equivalence; false equivalence.

3) Translation by means of modulation – consists of using a phrase that is different in the source and target languages to convey the same idea: "*last substantial economically justified processing or working*" means "*the origin of the goods*", e.g.: "*Origin is obtained in the country where **the last substantial economically justified working or processing** is carried out*", but translates better as "*ultima transformare sau prelucrare substanțială, justificată economic*". It changes the semantics and shifts the point of view of the source language.

4) Adaptation – takes the ideas of the source text and re-writes them in a completely new way. E.g. "*Declare that you do not have value of foreign currency notes in excess of **US $ 5000** or equivalent*". In this case we should convert the target foreign currency in the source language currency. Readers would be familiar with the US customs terms and conditions: "*Declarați că*

*nu dețineti valută străină de peste 5000 dolari SUA (**61382 MDL**) sau echivalentul acestei sume*". Looking to the Romanian version in a sense, it is communicative translation which attempts to produce on its reader an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original.

5) Translation by means of transposition – This is the process where parts of speech change their sequence when they are translated: E.g. adjective – adverb: *overseas territories – teritoriile de peste mări*. From this example we may conclude that grammatical structures are different in both languages.

Customs has an important role in the development and good standing of the society. It is one of the most important areas that underlie the entire society. We developed our research of the translation of customs terminology in the contexts and tried to prove the idea that the translation of customs terms requires a basic knowledge of the theory of translation, terminology, structure of terms and customs activity.

Bibliography:

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