CHALLENGES OF PHRASAL VERBS TRANSLATION

Liudmila POPAZ,

studentă, anul III, Facultatea de Litere, USM

CZU: 81`373.74`255.4 E-mail: popazliuda2000@gmail.com

Deși există numeroase ghiduri și materiale de cercetare privind dificultățile de traducere în general, până în prezent s-a acordat puțină atenție dificultăților de traducere a locuțiunilor verbale. Aşadar prezentul articol este bazat pe studiul locuțiunilor verbale din perspective atât lingvistice cât și de traducere.

The primary objective of any translation is to establish a stable relationship between the elements of the source text and its translation, or target text. This process corresponds to achieving an equivalent effect, in other words, to producing the same effect or one as close as possible to that obtained by the source text.

English phrasal verbs have both semantic and structural features that make their translation into other languages a difficult task. A significant challenge encountered during the process of translating phrasal verbs into Russian is their non-compositional nature. It is evident that the comprehensive significance of a phrasal verb cannot be precisely derived by merely analysing its constituent elements, namely the base verb and its accompanying particle (which may be a preposition or an adverb). Instead, phrasal verbs frequently function as semantic units whose meanings are idiomatic and context-dependent, often diverging from the literal interpretations of their components. This poses a unique challenge for translators attempting to render such constructions in a language like Russian, which employs a notably different syntactic and morphological approach to verbal expression [1].

In the English language, the combination of a verb with a preposition or an adverb gives way to a phrasal construction, which is capable of conveying a broad range of abstract, figurative, or idiomatic meanings. However, in Russian, similar meanings are more typically conveyed through single, often morphologically complex, verbs. These Russian verbs incorporate semantically rich prefixes that are capable of expressing a variety of nuances related to aspect, direction, or result. These functions are often performed by the adverbial or prepositional components in English phrasal verbs. Furthermore, the author underscores the pivotal role of phrasal verbs in natural language use. He asserts that insufficient comprehension of these constructions often results in miscommunication among non-native speakers. This lack of familiarity, he claims, tends to discourage learners from employing phrasal verbs altogether, leading to stilted or overly formal language. Additionally, I. Yatskovich contends that such avoidance frequently produces unnecessarily verbose paraphrasing. While phrasal

verbs are especially common in spoken discourse and informal writing, he emphasizes that they also appear regularly in more formal written registers, underscoring their broader relevance across genres [1].

It is common knowledge that in order to provide an adequate translation, the translator must be able to sense nuances in the semantics of both the source-language and target-language texts. English phrasal verbs (e.g. *give up, break in, fall out*) are of great interest in this respect because they possess quite a number of semantic, grammatical and stylistic peculiarities, which sometimes makes their accurate translation into Russian difficult. In theory, phrasal verbs are generally considered to be idiomatic combinations of a verb and an adverbial particle. The exact status of the latter is still being debated, scholars being divided on whether it is an adverb, prepositional adverb, postpositional prefix, special part of speech, etc. [1].

In general, the primary function of phrasal verbs is to facilitate conceptual categorisation of reality in the speaker's mind. In contrast to ordinary verbs, which denote actions or states, phrasal verbs specify their spatial, temporal, or other characteristics. The ability to describe actions or states in greater detail, with greater emotional impact, is determined by the adverbial components of phrasal verbs. The combination of these elements results in verbs of broader meaning undergoing a regular and systematic multiplication of their semantic functions [2].

Adverbial particles may impart additional meanings to the base verb, as in the case of the durative verb *"sit"* which merges with the particle *"down"* to form the terminative phrasal verb *"sit down"*. Alternatively, they may introduce lexical modifications to the fundamental semantics of the verb, as in the case of the adverbial particle *"up"* which modifies the verb *"go"* to form the phrasal verb *"go up"*. In the majority of cases, adverbial elements indicate the general spatial direction of the action or convey its qualitative or quantitative characteristics. These include beginning (*set out*), duration *(bum along*), completion *(think out*), intensity (*hurry up*), and so on [3, p.574].

The distinctive characteristics of English phrasal verbs – particularly their notable degree of semantic flexibility and idiomatic complexity – inevitably result in a significant influence on the process of their translation into the Russian language. This is especially evident when one takes into consideration the structural and functional disparities between the two linguistic systems. In contrast to English, Russian possesses a highly developed and nuanced system of verbal prefixes, which often serve to convey meanings, and functions that in English are typically expressed through phrasal constructions involving verbs and adverbial particles.

Considering the idiomatic and frequently polysemous nature of English phrasal verbs, translators must engage in a nuanced interpretative process. This process involves examining the adverbial particle's function within the overall meaning, in relation to its syntactic function and its interaction with the verb. In this context, Russian prefixes function not only as grammatical markers but also as semantically marked elements capable of expressing a range of concepts including directionality,

aspect, intensity, result, and even emotional colouring of an action. It is evident that the process of translating English phrasal verbs into Russian requires a high degree of semantic awareness. This is due to the fact that it involves the identification of the closest possible equivalent in Russian that retains the meaning, tone, and function of the original expression.

The translation of literature is fundamentally distinct from other categories. This is because the principal tenet of literary translation is the preponderance of the poetic communicative function. In addition to the act of conveying information to the reader, literary translation also serves an aesthetic function. The artistic image created in a literary work, whether of a character or of nature, will undoubtedly have an impact on the reader.

References:

1. YATSKOVICH, I. *Some ways of translating English phrasal verbs into Russian.* [online] Translation Journal 3.3, 1999. [visited 26.05.2025]. Available: http://translationjournal.net/journal/09russ.htm
2. АЖГУЛОВА, К.Н., ГОРШКОВА, Е.И. *Некоторые особенности перевода фразовых глаголов с английского на русский язык: на материале перевода произведения Дэвида Амонда «Скеллиг»* [online]. In: Филологический аспект: международный научно-практический журнал, № 04 (72), 2021. [accessed on 12.04.2025] Available: https://scipress.ru/philology/articles/nekotorye-osobennosti-perevoda-frazovykh-glagolov-s-anglijskogo-na-russkij-yazyk-na-materiale-perevoda-proizvedeniya-devida-amonda-skellig.html
3. ВАСИЛЬЕВА, В.Э. *Значение фразовых глаголов при обучении английскому языку и семантические особенности их перевода на русский язык* [online], In: МИР НАУКИ, КУЛЬТУРЫ, ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ. № 2 (99), 2023, pp. 573-575. [accessed on 16.04.2025] Available: file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/znachenie-frazovyh-glagolov-pri-obuchenii-angliyskomu-yazyku-i-semanticheskie-osobennosti-ih-perevoda-na-russkiy-yazyk.pdf

Recomandat

***Svetlana CORCODEL**, lector universitar, master în Studii Europene*