CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF STYLISTIC DEVICES PECULIARITIES IN THE TRANSLATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND WINSTON CHURCHILL DISCOURSES

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Articolul dat reprezintă un studiu al particularităților stilistice în traducerea discursului lui Martin Luther King și cel al lui Winston Churchill. Studiul prezintă o analiză concisă a două figuri de stil prezente în abudență în discursurile menționate mai sus: eufemisme și metafore, a căror studiere stă la baza înțelegerii discursurilor politice din toate timpurile, din moment ce actorii politici tind să camufleze ideea mesajelor expuse, folosind diferite metode de îmbogățire a stilului.

Words and power coexist in the beauty of language. They nurture each other and create the magic of utterance, which, along with meaning and form have the power to convince, to encourage, and to change the course of the history. The study of stylistic peculiarities in translation of political speeches helps us understand all the subtleties of political actors and their messages.

First of all, we must mention that the study of **euphemisms** is vital when speaking about political speeches. Euphemism is a mild or pleasant word or phrase that is used instead of one that is unpleasant or offensive. It makes the register sound less intensive than it does in the source language. Political text sensitivity does not allow the translator of the text to express the intended message directly and freely as maybe it was written or uttered in the source language. The translator must have enough political background, as the language used in political speeches is sometimes indirect and does not provide politicians with criticisms that is why often a literal translation will be welcomed. The first example of euphemism is found in Martin Luther King's speech: ,,It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of **captivity"** [1]. which was rendered: ,,A venit ca un revărsat de zori fericit pentru a pune capăt îndelungatei nopți de **captivitate"** [2]. The word *captivity* is a euphemism. As we know, many black people were captured to be slaves and forced to live in slavery. Martin Luther King never mentioned the word *slavery* in the whole speech because it would bring to minds the sad and humiliating picture of the past. To some extent, the use of this word reflects King's desire to change the course of the

history. The word *captivity* means more than it is suggested and the fact that it was literally translated is very welcomed.

Another euphemism is found in the following sequence: „Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content, will have **a rude awakening** if the nation returns to business as usual" [1], which was rendered: „Cei care gândesc că negrii au avut nevoie să-şi descarce surplusul de energie şi acum vor fi mulţumiţi, **se vor trezi la realitate** dacă naţiunea se întoarce la afaceri ca de obicei" [2]. Here the expression „a rude awakening" is a kind of euphemism. By making this statement, King warns those who discriminate the black that if they continue doing what has been doing from now on, they will surely have bad and unpleasant experience, for the black will no longer stay calm but resort to violence. Notice that the translation of this euphemism in Romanian is done with the help of the explicitation technique which diminishes the idea that the King wanted to express. This euphemism is a pleasant way to comfort the blacks and soften the shock of the reality. Euphemism, as a figure of speech, is more than saying something unpleasant in a pleasant way; it is highlighting a hidden but strong message.

Winston Churchill' speech is full of euphemisms that point indirectly to war. Some of them are: *frightful nationalistic quarrels [3] – tulburări naţionaliste îngrozitoare [4]; tormented, hungry, care-word and bewildered human beings [3] – fiinţe umane torturate, înfometate, nefericite [4]*. These euphemisms describe the consequences of the two world's wars on Europe and on its citizens. Churchill highlights these negative images in order to develop his idea about a remedy, a salvation that can be found by creating the European Family and a Council of Europe. The use of indirect descriptions of war, winners and defeated is used in order to avoid direct descriptions and names. In conclusion we notice that euphemisms are unavoidable especially when the orator criticizes an aspect from political or social life. This rhetoric figure helps at creating emotionally coloured sequences.

The next figure of speech is **metaphor**. It is a stylistic device which makes an implicit, comparison between two things that are unrelated but share some common characteristics. For example, the blacks are said to have been seared in the flames of withering injustice [1] – stigmatizaţi de flărările unei injustiţii nimicitoare [2]. The translation renders faithfully what the author wanted to say and creates this image

of pain while burning, whose flames are the concept of injustice. The hidden comparison with fire creates a strong feeling of pain and need for mercy. The next example is: they are crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination [1] – mutilați de cătușele segregării și lanțurile discriminării [2]. This translation is word for word but achieves at rendering the idea and recreates very well its image in listener's minds. The hidden comparison with the manacles makes the reader picture a jail, and thus, aims at making the reader feel the injustice about with the Martin Luther King talks. It shows vividly the need for freedom and salvation and the jail is this issue of discrimination and segregation. Probably the most memorable metaphor in King's speech is the hidden comparison of the demand of equality with cashing: ,,In a sense, we've come to our nation's capital **to cash a check.** When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing **a promissory note** to which every American was to fall heir" [1], rendered as: ,,Într-un fel, am ajuns în capitala națiunii noastre pentru **a încasa un cec**. Când arhitecții republicii noastre au scris strălucitele cuvinte ale Constituției și ale Declarației de Independență, ei au semnat **un bilet la ordin** pentru care fiecare american a fost desemnat ca beneficiar" [2]. The expressions ,,to cash a check" and ,,a promissory note" were rendered through equivalence translation technique due to the fact that these two concepts exist in both languages. The idea was correctly rendered and no alteration of the meaning is found. It is a powerful metaphor because it brings an accusation with the help of economic terms. The Declaration of Independence, and later the Emancipation Proclamation has made this promise of freedom to African Americans. But the promise was never fulfilled. Another beautiful metaphor is found in the Winston Churchill's speech as well: ,,It is the fountain of Christian faith and Christian ethics" [3], rendered as: ,,Europa este, de asemenea, leagănul creștinismului și a moralei creștine" [4]. The given metaphor was translated through modulation technique. Churchill says that Europe is the fountain of Christian faith and ethics, and underlines the idea that many good things come from Europe. The image of a founder appears in readers' mind.

One interesting thing we learn about the use of metaphors is that political speeches abound in metaphors because the speaker usually speaks about what is going to happen in the future and in order to

avoid accountability for his words, he masks them into metaphors because metaphors leave space for interpretations and the orator is therefore, avoiding speaking about a concrete change in future and avoiding concrete statements.

The use of stylistic devices is comfortable when the speech becomes national and the audience is huge. It can be easily understood by the crowds of that time and of other times as well, because such speeches are recorded and analysed many years after their first utterance. All these stylistic devices make the political speech become memorable and without them, political consensus-building speeches cannot be created.

References:

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Recomandat
Svetlana CORCODEL, lector universitar