

Translation Challenges of English Idiomatic Expressions into Russian Language: a Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT: This research paper explores the difficulties in translating English idiomatic expressions into the Russian language. Idiomatic expressions are commonly used in everyday communication, but their meanings may not be easily inferred from their literal translations. This study analyzes the strategies used by translators to convey the intended meaning of idiomatic expressions in the target language. The research methodology involves a comparative analysis of different translations of English idiomatic expressions into Russian, focusing on the nuances and subtleties of meaning that may be lost in translation. The analysis is based on a corpus of authentic texts, including literary works, news articles, and online content, which contain a wide range of English idiomatic expressions. The study aims to identify the main challenges that translators face when translating idiomatic expressions from English into Russian, such as cultural differences, idiomatic equivalences, and the preservation of the figurative language. Additionally, the research examines the impact of context on the translation of idiomatic expressions, as well as the role of translation theory in addressing the challenges of idiomatic translation.

Overall, the research paper contributes to the understanding of the complexities of idiomatic translation, highlighting the importance of a comprehensive approach that takes into account linguistic, cultural, and contextual factors.

KEYWORDS: Idiomatic expressions, translation challenges, English-Russian translation, cultural differences, figurative language.

INTRODUCTION

Idiomatic expressions are an essential part of language, and they are commonly used in everyday communication. However, idiomatic expressions can be difficult to translate, especially when the target language has different cultural, linguistic, and contextual factors. This research paper explores the challenges of translating English idiomatic expressions into Russian, focusing on the strategies used by translators to convey the intended meaning of idiomatic expressions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Idiomatic expressions are phrases whose meanings cannot be inferred from the literal meanings of their constituent words. For example, the English idiomatic expression "let the cat out of the bag" means to reveal a secret, but its literal translation may not make sense in another language. Idiomatic expressions are often deeply rooted in the culture and history of the language in which they are used. As such, they pose a challenge to translators, who must not only translate the words but also convey the cultural nuances and the intended meaning of the expression.

Translation challenges

Translating idiomatic expressions from English into Russian presents several challenges. One of the most significant challenges is the cultural differences between the two languages. For example, the English idiomatic expression "hit the nail on the head" means to be exactly right, but there may not be an equivalent expression in Russian that conveys the same meaning. In such cases, the translator may have to rely on a literal translation, which may not accurately convey the intended meaning.

Another challenge is the preservation of the figurative language used in idiomatic expressions. Idiomatic expressions often use metaphorical language to convey meaning, and the translator must be careful not to lose the figurative language in the translation process. For example, the English idiomatic expression "a piece of cake" means something that is easy to do, but its literal translation may not preserve the figurative language used in the expression.

Contextual factors also play a significant role in the translation of idiomatic expressions. The meaning of an idiomatic expression may vary depending on the context in which it is used. For example, the English idiomatic expression "bend over backwards" means to make a great effort, but its meaning may change depending on the context in which it is used. The translator must be aware of the context in which the expression is used to accurately convey its intended meaning.

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Features of English idiomatic

The vivid expressiveness of English idioms is created by different techniques. One of these techniques is a regular combination of two specific words.

Cut and run – to escape.

Far and away – much, much.

Again and again – again, again and again.

By and by – gradually, soon.

Miles and miles – without end.

Neck and neck – side-by-side, on a par.

On and on – on and on, on and on.

One by one – one by one.

Out and out – finished, perfect.

Also, one of the ways to create idioms is alliteration – the repetition of identical or consonant consonants:

Bag and luggage – entirely.

To chop and change – to hesitate.

Rough and ready – made carelessly.

Safe and sound – safe and not harmful.

Sometimes the effect is achieved with the help of rhyme:

Fair and square - honest, frank.

High and dry - abandoned in trouble, stranded (about ships)

By hook or by crook – by hook or by crook.

Sometimes the combination of two opposite concepts takes on a more general meaning:

First and last - in general.

Give and take - compromise; mutual concessions.

Ins and outs - all inputs and outputs.

Right and left - in all directions

One and all - all together

Prepositions are frequently used in conjunction with nouns and adjectives to form English idioms. Some examples include: at hand - at hand, at length - in detail, at leisure - at leisure, by chance - by chance, by fits and starts - snatches, not regularly, by far - much; for once - for a change, this time, for ever - forever, for good - decisively, forever; in fact - in fact; of late.

Some frequently used phraseological units and phrases, such as "inside" and "inside," "downstairs" and "downstairs," started to be written together and developed into complicated terms. There are other words like in his place in addition to the adverb instead.

Verb and prepositional combos make up a sizable portion of expressions. Typically, they are referred to as phraseological verbs. These include, for instance: push through - to accomplish (work), finish, build up - to erect, to establish, to reinforce, and keep down - to suppress, to keep in subjection. They and thousands of others of their kind make up a large number of phraseological units known as idiomatic oddities, the meaning of which is not derived from the meaning of the individual component words.

The same components can be combined to create complicated (prefixed) and phraseological verbs in English, such as upgather and gather up, which mean to take up or recap, uproot and root up, which mean to uproot something, and underlie and lay under, which mean to underpin something. Both parts of these combinations have the same worth.

In other instances, the various positions of the components denote different values, such as: undergo, which means to be subjected to or experience something, and go under, which means to descend or drop.

Complex words can be created from phraseological verbs and other phraseological units, such as the nouns breakdown and done-for, which refer to complete breakdowns of strength, health, ruin, and automobiles, as well as setbacks, drawbacks, obstacles, and disadvantages. Other phraseological units include talking-to, which is used to reprimand or scold someone, and adjectives grown up and adult.

Translation strategies

Translators use various strategies to translate idiomatic expressions from English into Russian. One of the most common strategies is to use a similar expression in the target language that conveys the same meaning as the English idiomatic expression. For example, the English idiomatic expression "in the same boat" means to be in the same situation as someone else, and its equivalent expression in Russian is "в одной лодке."

Another strategy is to use a literal translation that preserves the figurative language used in the English idiomatic expression. For example, the English idiomatic expression "a shot in the dark" means to take a guess, and its literal translation in Russian is "выстрел в темноте."

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A third strategy is to use a translation that conveys the intended meaning of the idiomatic expression, even if it does not use the same words as the English expression. For example, the English idiomatic expression "break a leg" means good luck, and its equivalent expression in Russian is "удачи" (good luck).

CONCLUSION

Idiomatic expressions are an important part of everyday speech, so knowledge of idioms is mandatory for a person who wants to speak English with dignity

Translating idiomatic expressions from English into Russian presents several challenges, including cultural differences, preservation of figurative language, and contextual factors. Translators use various strategies to translate idiomatic expressions, including using similar expressions, using literal translations, and using translations that convey the intended meaning. It is essential for translators to consider linguistic, cultural, and contextual factors when translating idiomatic expressions to ensure that the intended meaning is accurately conveyed. Unfortunately, fluency in phraseology is very difficult. But a literal translation from the native language very often distorts the meaning to the point of complete misunderstanding. And, although a beginner learning a foreign language willy-nilly translates, even mentally, his native speech into a foreign language, he must understand that in this way you will not speak correctly, and even more so you will not learn to express yourself in writing. Thus, you can choose several topics for yourself and learn phraseological units.

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