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## **ASPECTS OF MILITARY-RELATED TEXT TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO UKRAINIAN**

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The paper aims to highlight some aspects of special text translation in English-Ukrainian language pair, to discuss some misconceptions associated with translation of military and military-related texts, to analyze specific competences a translator of these texts should possess as well as to illustrate potential translation challenges faced by student translators.

While translating military and military-related texts, translators should develop not only advanced linguistic, but also comprehensive thematic competence to be able to deal with translation problems. Competence in translation of military-related texts may become a competitive advantage for student translators specializing in various fields of language for special purposes.

Military texts have been traditionally seen as a very special type of texts composed and translated by professionals. Nowadays, in view of the current geopolitical situation, there is a growing public concern about the issues of national and transnational security. Publicity ensured to military events, military education and training and to military missions by mass media have influenced the growth of the volume of military-related discourse.

In its turn, this situation has led to the distribution of military terms and the elements of professional military jargon into the publicist and news media as well as everyday communication.

One of the challenges associated with the inflow of military terms into the public information space is potential misinterpretation and misuse of these lexical items by non-professionals, which may lead to ambiguity and communication failure.

Thus, there is an increasing demand for translators specializing in translation of military texts, who are aware of the current issues and trends on the global security scene. The main challenge translators have to face rendering the texts from a language with a well-established terminological practice (English) into a language with developing terminological resources (Ukrainian), is the lack of equivalent terminology in the target language.

Military texts are a form of LSP (language for special purposes) texts which are composed for a definite communicative purpose, which “is situated in a particular socio-cultural context, often closely linked to a particular professional discourse community” (Rogers, 2015, p. 28-32).

Military language, the language of army and warfare, is one of the most ancient forms of LSP, which has been developing rapidly along with the advance of military and defense technologies, restructuring of military forces, and design of new weapons. In the course of development, the use of military terminology has become the characteristic feature of both military and military-related texts. Overall,

national varieties of military language have adopted many internationalisms, i.e. lexical items of Latin, French, or German origin adapted phonologically, morphologically and semantically to the recipient languages used to denote the same concept. At present, English has become the primary language of international communication in this field, thus many terms used in the national military languages are directly or indirectly borrowed from or through English.

The latest military dictionary in English which is accessible on-line [2] is a DOD (Department of Defense) Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms. It was published in November 2021 as a compendium of terminology used by the United States Department of Defense.

As for Ukraine, there is a Dictionary of Military Terms and Abbreviations (Словник військових термінів та скорочень (абревіатур) [3], published in October, 2020. The dictionary was prepared by scientific and scientific-pedagogical workers of the Central Research Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Ivan Chernyakhovsky National University of Defense of Ukraine. It was created with the purpose to gradually introduce the military terminology of NATO member states into the activities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The dictionary was developed for use at the strategic level, i.e. by the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the State Special Transport Service of Ukraine.

The Dictionary of Military Terms and Abbreviations consists of two parts. The first part contains basic terms and definitions in the field of national martial arts, which are similar to the terms of the United States Armed Forces Doctrine (JP I), as well as the terms that are not applicable in JP I. The second part of the Dictionary consists of terms and the JP I glossary, translated into Ukrainian.

In 2011 in Petro Sahaidachny Academy of Land Forces there was published an English-Ukrainian dictionary of military terms and related vocabulary of peacekeeping orientation (Англо-український словник військових термінів та супутньої лексики миротворчої спрямованості) by M. Torska and P. Chernyk. The dictionary contains more than 9,000 military terms and terminological phrases needed by peace keepers during peacekeeping operations.

The impact of English as a donor language for military terms remains very pronounced in Ukrainian. It is often manifested as proliferation of borrowings from English, at times these borrowings are not justified as national counterparts already exist. Borrowing is not always the best strategy even if a national term to denote a specific concept does not exist, as eventually it may lead to appearance of false friends and term polysemy if a national equivalent is coined at a later stage.

There is a number of translated terms which have their direct equivalents in Ukrainian language, but are rendered using a mixed transcoding technique.

E.g. the term „*ірегулярні бойові дії*” (irregular warfare (IW) has its Ukrainian equivalent - „*нерегулярні*”. Another term, „*ірегулярна війна*” (irregular war), also has its equivalent - „*ненормативна*” and „*позанормативна*” (війна). E.g. *Ірегулярна війна* - збройна боротьба між державними та недержавними суб'єктами за легітимність і вплив на відповідне населення.

*We can also find other examples of the related word-combinations in some Ukrainian articles: ірегулярні формування, ірегулярні (незаконно створені) збройні формування, дії*

*ірегулярних підрозділів, etc.).*

The term „*інтервенція*” (intervention) also has its equivalent – *втручання*. E.g. Найнебезпечнішою формою для миру і незалежності країни, що стала об'єктом посягання, є *збройна інтервенція*, тобто збройне втручання, яке розглядається як агресія.

The term „*інтеграція*” (integration) and its equivalent „*об'єднання*” is another example. E. g. Європейська *інтеграція* — це процес політичної, юридичної, економічної (а в деяких випадках — соціальної та культурної) інтеграції європейських держав, у тому числі й частково розташованих в Європі.

Transcribed and calqued terms often appear as false friends in the target language, thus the main requirement set forth military and military-related texts, namely, content precision, is not met. Moreover, borrowing by transcription should be avoided if there is an appropriate lexical unit in the target language to foreclose opportunities for double reading of terminological units.

A translator specializing in rendition of military and military-related texts should possess advanced level of thematic competence, i.e. should be familiar with military equipment and facilities, specifics of ranking, subordination, and military procedures, should have a general command of military jargon and slang, as well as should be aware of the general body of knowledge on warfare and army. Moreover, a highly professional military translator should also be familiar with terminology in the related fields, such as IT, economics, and politics, as well as has to keep up to date with the current issues concerning global security and military operations.

In addition to high level of linguistic competence LSP translators should develop socio-pragmatic or intercultural competence to ensure successful communication and accurate rendition of culture-sensitive information irrespective of the field they are majoring in. Introduction of the foundations of military translation into the course of LSP translation in such fields as technology or economics may help student translators develop a competitive advantage in the translation service market.

It should be mentioned that inaccurate translation of military texts can have adverse consequences, that is why the issues of relevant translator training are of utmost importance and should be addressed within both graduate and post-graduate translation programs. At present, no universities in Ukraine offer translation programs majoring in military translation; military translators are trained by national armed forces and international military alliances in-house for their own needs. However, these translators do not deal with translation of military-related texts, which as a result are rendered by translators without relevant training in the field under discussion. If translated imprecisely, these texts become the medium through which the general public obtains inaccurate and even faulty information on the matters of great public interest. Thus, developing competence in translation of military-related texts may appear a competitive advantage for student translators specializing in various fields of language for special purposes.

Translating military and military-related texts, translators should develop not only advanced linguistic, but also comprehensive thematic competence to be able to deal with translation challenges, e.g. lack of equivalent terms. Direct and indirect borrowing of non-equivalent pieces of vocabulary should be used with extreme caution

as a solution to this problem.

Excessive literariness may result in producing texts that are difficult to perceive, are not reader-friendly and accurate. Transcribed and calqued terms often appear as false friends in the target language, thus the main requirement set forth military and military-related texts, namely, content precision, is not met. Moreover, borrowing by transcription should be avoided if there is an appropriate lexical unit in the target language to foreclose opportunities for double reading of terminological units.

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