

## **TRANSLATION OF SCIENTIFIC TEXTS**

The problem of assessing the quality of translation arose simultaneously with the practice of translation, which is a means of communication between languages and cultures. Opinions on the requirements for translation and evaluation of its quality can be found in ancient philosophers and writers who dealt with the problems of translation. At the same time, the problem of assessing the quality of translation is one aspect of the overall problem of assessing human activity.

Translation, like any other activity, is multifaceted and can be evaluated from different perspectives – primarily in terms of conformity to the original, or from the standpoint of communicative effect or its pragmatic value, which must be reproduced in translation. These approaches may not lead to mutually exclusive evaluations, but the evaluation may be different depending on the evaluator's attitude and the translator's intentions.

When editing texts of practical purpose, the editor – a person whose competence includes the assessment of the quality of translations – there are a number of complex tasks that can not be solved without formulating objective criteria for evaluating the translation. Despite the fact that these criteria are based on common principles, they cannot be identical for different types of translation activities. In particular, such criteria are formulated and applied differently in the practice of literary and artistic translation, in scientific and informational translation, in the translation of documentary materials. Educational and pedagogical practice has its own evaluation criteria, which depend on the forms and objectives of learning.

The accumulated experience and generally accepted views on the evaluation of translation, as well as most works on the theory of translation, do

not give a clear answer to the question of the possibility of defining universal criteria. One extreme presented in the literary-critical evaluation of translations, in which the criteria of quality translation are often replaced by artistic, aesthetic and psychological reflections, which contain a large share of subjectivism.

Specialists tend to consider the completeness of the transfer of the original information as a natural criterion for evaluating the translation. Despite its simplicity, this criterion can hardly be applied in practice – the information contained in any text is virtually inexhaustible. Loss of information is absolutely impossible to avoid, because the translation loses all information about the material form of expression of content, the share of which in the total number of units of information is too large. The authors of all modern works on the theory of translation emphasize the impossibility of complete transfer of information.

As mentioned above, there are two sets of criteria for evaluating a translation – one based on the linguistic basis itself (translation equivalence) and the other on a pragmatic one (translation value). According to the first criterion, the analysis is reduced to phrase-by-phrase, verbatim, and sometimes even morpheme comparison of the translated text with the original, sometimes with corrections for translation transformations and other forms of compensation for «untranslatable» units. Stylistic assessment of the quality of translation is either not formalized at all, or is simply a choice from a number of stylistic synonyms. This technique in a simplified form is often used in teaching practice. The second criterion – pragmatic – is based directly on the real communicative situation. It should be understood as the emergence of an adequate and effective response from the recipient of the translation. Unfortunately, this criterion cannot be formalized, does not apply to situations of a non-objective nature and is complicated by the possibility for the recipient to use his experience and extralinguistic information. There is another factor that must be taken into account when formulating the criteria for evaluating the translation – the form and conditions of its implementation (interpretation – simultaneous and consistent, written – working and official, etc.)

When editing the text of the translation, one has to pay attention not only to stylistic, but also to other aspects, for example, to correct semantic errors, which sometimes occur due to lack of background knowledge. Thus, the use of the whole arsenal of translation techniques to achieve equivalence at all levels is in the full sense of «editing». The translation editor should be well versed in the original language and, ideally, be a translator himself. Determining the criteria for assessing the quality of translations of texts of different styles and different thematic orientation is an urgent problem of modern linguistics and requires further research.

#### REFERENCES

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