

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSCRIPTION IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract. The paper provides information about the importance of transliteration and transcription techniques in the translation process, transliterating the alphabet, and calque translation. Moreover, the paper emphasizes the information about transcription technique, differences between phonetic and practical transcription, and the most important transcription rules between Azerbaijani and English. In summary, these methods can not always be the best way in translation. In most cases these methods are sometimes used interchangeably. It depends on the professional skills and translation ability of translator.

Keywords: Translation, transliteration, transcription, proper names, phonetic and practical transcription.

TƏRCÜMƏDƏ TRANSLİTERASIYA VƏ TRANSKRİPSİYA

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Xülasə. Məqalədə tərcümə prosesində transliterasiya və transkripsiya texnikalarının vacibliyi, əlifbanın transliterasiyası, kalka tərcümə məsələləri araşdırılır. Bundan əlavə məqalədə transkripsiya texnikası, fonetik və praktik transkripsiya arasındakı fərqlər, Azərbaycan və İngilis dilləri arasında ən vacib transkripsiya qaydaları təhlil edilir. Araşdırma zamanı gəlinən yekun nəticə isə budur ki, qeyd edilən metodlar heç də həmişə uğurlu üsul sayıla bilməz. Bir çox hallarda qeyd edilən tərcümə üsullarından qarışıq şəkildə istifadə edilir. Bu isə tərcüməçinin peşəkərliyindən və tərcümə bacarığından asılıdır.

Açar sözlər: tərcümə, transliterasiya, transkripsiya, xüsusi adlar, fonetik və praktik transkripsiya.

ТРАНСЛИТЕРАЦИЯ И ТРАНСКРИПЦИЯ В ПЕРЕВОДЕ

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Резюме. В статье исследуется важность методов транслитерации и транскрипции в процессе перевода, транслитерации алфавита и калькирование в переводе. Более того, в статье анализируется техника транскрипции, различия между фонетической и практической транскрипцией, а также важнейшие правила транскрипции между азербайджанским и английским языками. Таким образом, эти методы не всегда могут быть лучшим способом перевода. В большинстве случаев эти методы иногда используются как взаимозаменяемые. Это зависит от профессиональных навыков и переводческих способностей переводчика.

Ключевые слова: перевод, транслитерация, транскрипция, имена собственные, фонетическая и практическая транскрипция.

1. Introduction

While translating from one language into another we can come across such words in the source language that we can not find equivalent for them in the target language. These words are called mequivalented lexical units. These types of words include the followings:

Proper nouns, geographical, institutional, organizational names, etc. We are aware of some English proper names. For example, proper names such as London-London, Thames-Temza, Trafalgar Square-Trafalqar meydanı, Hyde-Park-Hayd Park, Scotland-Şotlandiya, Wales-Vels, Shakespeare-Şekspir, Chaucer-Çoser, Dickens-Dikens, Byron-Bayron are frequently used in media, textbooks, etc. and that is why their equivalents are known by almost all in the Azerbaijani language. However, some other unfamiliar proper names can only be found in dictionaries and other scientific sources. At the same time, some Azerbaijani proper names such as names of districts, streets, etc. are being frequently changed and after a while, one must do research to find their previous names: Şamxor-Şəmkir, Qutqaşen-Qəbələ, Vartaşen-Oğuz, Prişib-Göytəpə.

Realia. The words in the source language are words that don't exist in the target language. Most of these words are related to the material and moral culture of the people speaking that language. Generally, the words that relate to the cultures, fauna, flora, etc. of other people are called cultural terms or egotisms. For example Azerbaijani dishes such as dolma, xəşil, piti, xingəl, bozbaş, etc. [4, p.52]. Some words are occasionally borrowed from English into Azerbaijani. For example mayor, mayoralty (mer, meriya). The word mayoress is used as lady mayor in American English, but it is used as someone who helps the mayor in official ceremonies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The third group of words is called occasional lacunas. These words don't usually have equivalents in the target language for some reason. For example, the word sutka in Russian doesn't have an equivalent in English and Azerbaijani is used as a borrowed word in Azerbaijani. In English, it is usually explained as a day and night, twenty-four hours. For example, the sentence in Russian Я приеду через двое суток can be translated as I will return in two days or I will return in twenty-four hours. Or let's take Azerbaijani word obaşdan, səhər tezdən, günəş çıxar-çıxmaz. It can be translated as early in the morning, at sunrise, at daybreak, or dawn. Other usages of these word such as obaşdan durmaq, obaşdanlıq etmək weren't given in A. Akhundov's Azerbaijani Dictionary. The dictionary excludes these meanings. When we translate Obaşdan durdum these meanings must be added and the sentence can be translated as I got up at a daybreak for going on the fast. Having no equivalent doesn't mean untranslatability. All meaningful words and sentences can be translated with an appropriate translation method. In English there is a dictionary called From A to Z. Let's have a look at some samples from that dictionary.

Abdication- the formal giving up of the throne in 1936 by King Edward VIII, so that he could marry an American divorcee, Mrs. Wallis Simpson.

Bed and breakfast- a bed for the night and breakfast the following morning in a hotel, boarding house or private house, charged to a guest as a single unit.

Chief whip- in the House of Commons, a leading member of a political party appointed to keep party discipline, encourage active support for the party and its policies and make sure party members attend meetings and vote.

Drop scone- a scone made by dropping a spoonful of butter on a hot cooking surface

As it is seen abovementioned words and sentences don't have equivalents in Azerbaijani but can be translated with explanation and description. The words and phrases having no equivalents can be translated in two ways: Transliteration and transcription.

In the field of translation, transliteration and transcription are two important techniques that are used to convert words and phrases from one writing system or language to another. Z. Proshina, professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University did a lot of research in this field. Transliteration involves representing the sounds of words in one language using letters of another language, while transcription involves representing the sounds of words using a set of symbols that are universally recognized. This article will explore the differences between transliteration and transcription, their applications in translation and some of the challenges associated with their use.

Some linguists consider calque (blueprint) translation as mechanical copying. Calque is translation by parts: skyscraper (Eng.)-göydələn, senokos (Rus)-otbiçən, semiconductor (Eng.)-yarımkeçirici, round table (Eng.)-dəyirmi masa, brain-drain (Eng.)-beyin axını, street people (Eng.)-küçə adamları. It is mostly used in the translation of institutional names, compound nouns, phrases, etc. Since the calqued word is not just a mechanical borrowing of the form but it undergoes some changes, this device is, to some extent, an actual translation, which includes form transformations [10, p.39; 4, p.66, p.175].

Transliteration. Transliteration is the process of representing the sounds of words in one language using the letters of another language, the notion of transliteration is based on representing written characters of one language by the characters of another language.

There are several different systems for transliterating the alphabet. Different languages have different equivalents for letters. Thus, the Azerbaijani name "Şahin" can be rendered in English as "Shahin", in German as "Schahin", in Italian as "Scahin" and in Polish as "Szahin". Even in English, there are several systems for the transliteration of modern Russian and Azerbaijani names, which range from the system suitable for works intended for the general reading public to those suitable for the needs of specialists in various fields [9, p.4-5].

When transliterating, it is best to use the version which most closely approximates the source language word. Thus the forms "qəpik" and "çar" are preferable to the alternatives "gapik", "czar" etc.

The mute "r" is always transliterated in Russian and Azerbaijani: "Morning Star–Morningq Star" whereas the mute "e" is usually omitted: "Fosse– Fos".

Transliteration and transcription often compete, so that sometimes it is difficult to state how to render a word (especially a personal or place name) in the other language. However, transliteration is preferred to transcription in bibliographical citations found in publications.

The number of Azerbaijani and English sounds/letters are not the same. Thus we sometimes use both ways interchangeably. For example, “Sheffield-Şefild”, “Vaygach-Vayqaç” [10, p.36; 3, p.403].

Below we can see a sample Azerbaijani-English alphabet transliteration table especially used for translating proper names by the consular sections of embassies: [10]

A	A
B	B
C	J
Ç	CH
D	D
E	E
Ə	A
F	F
G	G
Ğ	G
H	H
X	KH
I	I
İ	I
J	Y/ZH
K	K
Q	G
L	L
M	M
N	N
O	O
Ö	O
P	P
R	R
S	S
Ş	SH
T	T
U	U
Ü	U
V	V
Y	Y
Z	Z

Transcription. Transcription is a method of writing down speech sounds. It is essential to differentiate between a **phonetic** transcription and a **practical** (or translation) transcription. In a phonetic transcription, sounds are depicted by special symbols based on their articulatory and auditory identity.

Phonetic transcription is an intralinguistic operation, that is, it deals with only one language: *Anchorage* [ˈ x NkqrIG], *Oakland* [ˈ qVklx nd].

A practical transcription is an interlinguistic operation as it deals with two languages: the sounds of the source language word are rendered by the letters of the target language: *New York* – *Nyu York*, *Oakland* – *Oklend*. Because the English (Latin) Russian (Cyrillic) and Azerbaijani versions of Latin alphabets and sounds do not coincide, there are special rules for representing English sounds by Azerbaijani letters and Azerbaijani sounds by English letters.

The most important transcription rules are as follows:

Transcribing English sounds with Azerbaijani/Russian letters:

– Interdental [θ, D] correspond to the Russian/Azeri **T**: *Thatcher* – *Tetçer*, *Thackeray* – *Tekkeray*. Sometimes these sounds correspond to the Azerbaijani **S**, which is a bit outdated: *Galsworthy* – *Qolsuorsı*. In Greek words, the interdental sound is rendered by the Azerbaijani/Russian **F**: *Athens* – *Afina*, *Themistocles* – *Femistokl*.

– The English [w] is transmitted by the letter **U** if followed by a vowel: *William* – *Uilyam*, *Wilder* – *Uilder*. But when followed by the vowel [u], the consonant [w] is rendered by the letter **V**: *Woolf* – *Vulf*, *Wodehouse* – *Vudhaus*. However, there are some traditional cases of the sound [w] represented by the letter **V**: *Washington* – *Vaşinqton*, *Walter Scott* – *Valter Skot*. The same is true about the borrowed (mostly German) names: *Wagner* – *Vaqner*, *Wilhelm* – *Vilhelm*.

– The English [h] can be represented in two ways in Russian: Either by **X**: *Hailey* – *[Xeili]*, or by **Q**: *Hamilton* – *[Qamilton]*. Thus some words acquire two forms in Russian: *Hoffman* – *[Xofman]*, *[Qofman]*.

– [N] is transliterated by **NQ**: *Jennings* – *Cenninqs*

– The vowel [ɜ:] after the consonant corresponds to the Azeri **Ö**: *Burns* – *Börns*. At the beginning of the word, this sound is represented by the letter **E**: *Earl's Court* – *Erls Kort*.

– [æ] is represented in Azerbaijani by **E/A/Ə**: *Batman* – *Betmen*, *Jack* – *Cek*, *Glasgow* – *Qlazgo* [10, p.34; 3, p.403].

– Azerbaijani sounds in English transcription are usually represented as follows:

– [j] represented in writing by the letter **Y/İ** stays the same in English, sometimes **İ** corresponds to English **Y**. *Tolstoy* – *Tolstoy*, *Trotsky* – *Trotsky/Trotsky*.

– Azerbaijani [j] is rendered by **ZH**: *Jalə* – *Zhala/ Zhale*

– [x] corresponds to **KH** or, rarely, **H**: *Xəyal* – *Khayal*

– [ç] corresponds to **CH** or **TCH**: *Çexov* – *Chekhov*, *Çaykovski* – *Tchaikovsky*.

– [ş] is represented by the cluster **SH**, [ğ] is represented by **GH**: *Şahdağ- Shahdagh*.

As the number of Azerbaijani and English sounds and letters are different sometimes these two methods are used together. For example, *Vaigach- Vayqaç (island)*, *Sheffield-Şefild*, *Lake Charles-Leyk Çarlz*, etc. Some geographical names are translated as *the White Sea- Ağ Dəniz*, *the Black Sea- Qara dəniz*, and *the Pacific Ocean- Sakit ocean* [7, p.74].

While translating the names of newspapers and ship indefinite articles are omitted. For example, *The Times-Tayms*, *the Financial Times-Faynənşal Tayms*, *the Victoria-Viktoriya gəmisi*.

The methods used in the translation of *realia* such as cultural terms, egotisms and their definitions are given. For example during the 1980s in the USSR M. Gorbachev conducted constructive policy. *The Morning Star* wrote at the time: “*Three words are widely used in Russia now. They are перестройка (restructuring), гласность (transparency) and ускорение (acceleration)*”. From that time on those new words are included in The OED. The New Oxford Dictionary of English (1998): *perestroika-(in the former Soviet Union) the policy or practice of restructuring or reforming the economic and political system. First proposed by Leonid Brezhnev in 1979 and actively promoted by Mikhail Gorbachov, perestroika originally referred to increased automation and labor efficiency, but came to entail greater awareness of economic markets and the ending of central planning. Qlastnost-(in the former Soviet Union) the policy or practice of more open consultative government and wider dissemination of information, initiated by leader Mikhail Gorbachov in 1985.*

Conclusion. The aforementioned translation methods are accompanied by shortcomings a well. For example, transliteration is used, nationally may be preserved in the text. But if it is not explained, will remain unclear to the recipient. Calque cannot fully comprehend the meaning of the word and word combinations. Since the descriptive translation covers a lot of place in the text it is not always used. Typically, translators prefer the use of two methods of transcription or calque removal, as well as a descriptive translation. It enables the possibility of combining the meaning of the language units, that is, the semantics of the visual translation and to combine the narrowness of transliteration and transcriptional expressions. The interpreter may interpret the culture bound words once and then use the transcription or calque translation methods. Because the meaning of this word is understandable to the recipient. When used in translation, the analogs may mislead what they describe or the nature of the event. In summary, it can be said that the use of any of these methods depends on the skill of the translator and the proper use of them facilitates the translation process.

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