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## ENGLISH PROVERBS AND PECULIARITIES OF THEIR TRANSLATION INTO RUSSIAN

**Introduction.** In every nation and every culture people always decorated their speech with wise sayings which offered people some kind of advice about how to live their lives. These sayings are called "proverbs".

I have chosen this topic for my research because it's quite interesting and actual. Proverbs and sayings reflect rich historical experience of people. The right use of proverbs makes our speech unique and peculiar and helps to understand English better because they are a good example of the English language and the English culture. The knowledge of proverbs and sayings enriches the language and promotes better understanding of people's thoughts and character.

**Main part .** According to the World Book Encyclopedia a "proverb" is a brief saying that presents a truth of some bit of useful wisdom. It is usually based on common sense or practical experience. The effect of a proverb is to make the wisdom it tells seem to be self-evident [5].

Another definition of a "proverb" is a short popular saying that gives advice about how people should behave or that expresses a belief that is generally thought to be true [4].

Proverbs and sayings have been passed from generation to generation primarily by word of mouth. Nevertheless there are many sources of proverbs and sayings appearing. To become a proverb the saying must be popular and well known among the society. When a saying starts to be a proverb it becomes the part of common mind. That's why the person who uses this proverb doesn't care who has invented it. So we can say that proverbs and sayings are invented by folk.

Many proverbs have got their beginning from people's life experience and the meaning of some words was transforming to the proverb during a long period of time without any announcing of this process. The phrase "*Make hay while the sun shines*" appeared from everyday field-workers' practice. Every farmer saw the truth in these words but when hundreds of people began to understand these words in their own way they realized that this sentence had several different meanings and people could use it for their own situations. After long time of practicing the method of "trial and mistakes" this phrase got its own common meaning and became a proverb. By the same way the phrase "*Don't put all your eggs in one basket*" became a proverb from the practical experience of trading dealers.

So we can see that many proverbs were created in oral form and the author is usually unknown. On the other hand many proverbs were created by definite people. There are some cases when we can learn about the origin of some proverbs. For example the proverb "*The End justifies the means*" (Каково начало, таков и конец) appeared from the theological doctrine in the seventeenth century or "golden age". Another example is a proverb created by William Shakespeare "*An honest tale speeds best being plainly told*" (Самое лучшее — прямо и просто сказанное слово) [5].

In translation of English proverbs into Russian we should pay attention to the meaning of the proverb in general and shouldn't always translate them literally. It is also important to remember that in different languages people use different images for the expression of the same or similar thoughts. I would like to cite as an example the well-known proverb "*Every man to his taste*". The literal translation of this proverb is «У всякого свой вкус» and the Russian equivalent of this proverb is «На вкус и цвет товарищей нет». One more example is "*Good clothes open all doors*" (literally «Хорошая одежда открывает все двери») which corresponds to the Russian proverb «По одежке встречают, по уму провожают».

Thus we may divide Russian and English proverbs and sayings into several categories:

1. Full equivalents (when English proverbs and sayings correspond completely to their Russian variants):
  - "Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst" — Надейся на лучшее, но готовься к худшему;

- “Appearances are deceitful” — Внешность обманчива;
- “My house is my castle” — Мой дом — моя крепость;
- “Speech is silver, but silence is gold” — Слово — серебро, молчание — золото;
- “Better late than never” — Лучше поздно, чем никогда;
- “Best defence is offence” — Лучшая защита — нападение;
- “There is no fire without smoke” — Нет дыма без огня;
- “Good health is above wealth” — Здоровье дороже денег.

2. Partial equivalents (when English proverbs and sayings are a bit different in their meaning from Russian ones):

- “Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow” — Лучше синица в руках, чем журавль в небе;
- “While there is life, there is hope” — Надежда умирает последней;
- “Do or die” — Либо в стремя ногой, либо в пень головой;
- “After dinner comes the reckoning” — Любишь кататься, люби и саночки возить;
- “When it rains it rains on all alike” — Все равны под солнцем;
- “Love can’t be forced” — Насильно мил не будешь;
- “As the call so the echo” — Как аукнется, так и откликнется;
- “If you run after two hares you will catch neither” — Погонишься за двумя зайцами, ни одного не поймешь [2, p. 441].

3. English proverbs and sayings which do not have corresponding variants in the Russian language and need some special search and explanation:

- “Many cooks spoil the broth” — У семи нянек дитя без глаза;
- “A little rain stills a great wind” — Муравей невелик, а горы капает;
- “A cat falls on his legs” — Правда восторжествует;
- “Lying pays no tax” — Язык без костей;
- “Where there is strong riding there is strong abiding” — Лес рубят — щепки летят;
- “A thing that is said is said, and forth it goes” — Слово не воробей, вылетит — не поймаешь;
- “It sticks out a mile” — Ясно, как дважды два — четыре;
- “It is as broad as it’s long” — Что в лоб, что по лбу [2, p. 444].

It should be noted that the list of popular Russian proverbs can differ significantly from the list of popular English proverbs. I’d like to draw your attention to the list of English proverbs, which are most frequently used in the speech of foreigners. They can be divided into several categories or groups which correspond to some definite topic.

Health: “An apple a day keeps the doctor away”; “The first wealth is health”; “A sound mind in a sound body” [1, p. 188].

House: “There is no place like home”; “East or West, home is best”; “Burn not house to rid it of the mouse” [1, p. 140].

Food: “Too many cooks spoil the broth”; “Hunger is the best sauce”; “Don’t live to eat, but eat to live” [1, p. 295].

Work: “Business before pleasure”; “Live and learn”; “To work with the left hand” [1, p. 462].

**Conclusion.** The comparison of English and Russian proverbs has shown that people of these countries have much in common but at the same time there are some peculiarities in the perception and further translation of one and the same proverb [3]. That’s why in order to understand English proverbs it is better to study their meaning with the use of examples.

In conclusion I would like to say that the language without proverbs and sayings would be dull and unexpressive. Proverbs are the part of any culture and it is very interesting to translate them because in different languages proverbs and sayings have different semantic peculiarities.

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