

PECULIARITIES OF ENGLISH CONSTRUCTION TERMINOLOGY TRANSLATION

Introduction. The development of science and technology in modern process of globalization is growing every day enhancing international relations and bringing international scientists and technologists together in international projects to demonstrate technological advances. The technological revolution has led to increased information and communication processes resulting in a rapid increase in the number of scientific texts in different fields. Civil engineering is one of the oldest fields of technology. Modern construction vocabulary is complex and numerous. It's formation is a complex of quantitative growth and qualitative change. This vocabulary is a system in motion. It covers the names of technological concepts that appeared before, derives from other languages, especially from English. The investigation of construction vocabulary is conducted by the students of Civil Engineering Department at Belarusian national technical university. This project is a part of the 2nd English Department scientific work that includes the creation of a database for English Belarusian electronic terminological vocabulary.

Main part. Construction sublanguage of the English language is rich and varied. First of all this is due to the fact that this language was chosen as scientific international language. A great part of the scientists' studies, recommendations, building codes and instructions are written in English. Scientific conferences and business meetings are organized in English. An important part of engineering sublanguage of the English language is construction terminology. The formation of this terminology has been in progress for lots of centuries and reflects the complicated process of science and technology development in this field. The origin and semantic structure of English building technology terms is determined by origin and development of appropriate objects, processes and phenomena. Thus the semantic structure of constructional terms should be considered at the junction of two sciences — linguistics and building construction engineering.

The language of engineering texts is characterized by specific terms and special grammatical and syntactical patterns where translation can cause some difficulties. That is why we should know sufficient knowledge of grammatical, stylistic and lexical peculiarities in such type of texts to translate them correctly.

The object of the investigation was construction engineering terminology from textbooks "Engineering the Future", "English for Civil Engineering", "English for builders" [1—3]. The subject of the research comprises investigation of linguistic peculiarities of construction texts and the specific character of translation. The results of the research can be taken into consideration by students who are involved in studying English in technical universities. As well it will be used for database creation of English Belarusian electronic terminological vocabulary.

It is quite obvious that any construction activity cannot be done without texts and documents. Building contracts are impossible without relations and correspondence all over the world. It does not matter, whether you communicate with your partner using the phone (orally) or telexes (in writing). All decisions and terms must be confirmed by contracts and design projects.

The engineering language differs from other kinds of the English language, mostly because of the specific character of its functional usage. The style of constructional texts preserves the structural forms and the use of syntactical constructions. All emotiveness and subjective modality are completely banned out of this style. Like other styles of language, this style has a definite communicative aim and, accordingly, has its own system of interrelated language and stylistic means. The main aim of this type of communication is to describe objects, processes and technologies in details. The peculiar features common for all stylistic varieties of construction texts are the following:

- the use of abbreviations and special terms;
- absence of emotiveness;
- general syntactical mode of combining several pronouncement into one sentence.

It also should be noted that the syntactical construction of this style is as important as the vocabulary. The form of a text is informative because it tells something about the matter dealt with. Technical English is formal. We mean using it in design projects, business correspondence, official reports and regulations. Actually, it is always written. Exceptionally it is used in speech, for example, in formal public speeches. There are various degrees of formality. For example:

When a structural engineer is involved, he had to specify that the concrete is to be 3000 psi with a three to five inch slump. (Informal style)

On the case of a structural engineer is hired to control concrete quality target, he is obliged to specify that the concrete is to be 3 000 psi with a three to five inch slump. (Formal style)

These sentences mean roughly the same idea. (*У выпадку наяўнасці інжэнера будаўнічых канструкцый ён павінен дакладна вызначаць ступень усаджвання бетону, якое мае быць 3 000 фунтаў на квадратны дюйм і складаць ад 3 да 5 дзюймаў*). But these two sentences would occur in different situations. The first one is fairly neutral (common core) style, while the second is very formal, in fact stilted, and would only occur in a written construction business report.

Grammatical features of construction texts are much less significant than lexical ones, but they are as diverse as the latter. This is all about the differences in the functioning of grammatical elements. One of the most common features of such text is wide use of sentences with the verb-predicate in the passive voice, i. e. the use of passive constructions. This is because scientific and technical texts often describe processes or facts, and therefore the author wants to focus reader's attention on them. For example:

The size of the foundation and how much concrete will be required are usually the first questions to be answered. — (Памеры падмурка і колькасць бетону для яго будаўніцтва — першае, што патрэбна ведаць).

Masonry Brick Ledge is normally a depression placed in the outside perimeter of the house wherever brick will be located. — (Выступ мураванай сцяны — гэта паглыбленне звонку перыметра будынку ў месцы, дзе будзе знаходзіцца цэгла).

Typically, the translation of such sentences is not difficult, except in cases where transition of verbs in source and target languages is not the same.

There is a large number of complex sentences with coordinate and subordinate clauses in scientific and technical literature. For example:

This coating is almost invisible and reflects sunlight because completely new technology is used for producing it. (Subordinate clause) — (Дадзенае пакрыццё амаль не бачна і адбівае сонечнае святло з прычыны выкарыстання найноўшай тэхналогіі ў працэсе яго вытворчасці).

The foundation has been finished and the walls have been ready now to be put together and raised. (Coordinate clause) — (Падмурак зроблены і сцены гатовыя, каб умацаваць іх разам і падняць).

The translation of such sentences requires the ability to understand the grammatical structure and fair knowledge of function words with the help of which the connections are made between complex sentences or between their parts.

Considering technical construction literature in linguistic terms, it is also necessary to pay attention to the use of a large number of participial, gerund and infinitive clauses. For example:

For a straight flight of stairs, the balcony may be long enough to require multiple newels to support the length of railing. (Infinitive clauses) — (Падчас пабудовы вертыкальнага пралёту ўсходаў, межпавярховая пляцоўка павінна быць дастатковай даўжыні, каб змяшчаць неабходную колькасць стоек для падтрымання парэчнаў).

Flue liners are clay tile units that come in different sizes, depending on the size of the chimney. (Participial I) — (Футраванне коміна — гэта секцыі з глінянай дахоўкі адпаведных памераў, у залежнасці ад памеру коміна).

In English construction literature logical emphasizing of main facts is common. This is achieved by the use of a particular word order (inversion) and special constructions. Special attention should be paid to the markers, because they play an important role in identifying grammatical context:

- nouns are identified by definite and indefinite articles and numerals (a, the, some, this, my, three);
- adjectives are identified by suffixes (-al, -y, -ant, -ive) and by the position in a sentence (after a noun marker, after a noun, after a link-verb);
- verbs are identified by verb forms (to be, to have, to do), modal verbs and by the position in a sentence;
- prepositional phrases are identified by prepositions (in, out, over, through, below).

As noted above, the translation of construction texts differs significantly from the translation of other types of texts. Scientific and technical texts are characterized by a special style. In translation process of such texts this feature creates additional difficulties. Language of scientific and technical literature differs from other types of texts by certain lexical, grammatical and stylistic features. The defining features of construction texts are their information content, consistency, accuracy, objectivity, and clarity. That is why construction terminology are monosemantic. It has no connotative meanings and no synonyms and it is always translated by its complete and absolute equivalent.

Conclusion. Thus, the analysis of English constructional terminology showed that modern construction vocabulary is complex and numerous. It can be stressed the presence of single-component and multi-component units in it. The most grammatical features of such texts are wide use of sentences with the verb-predicate in the passive voice, a large number of complex sentences with coordinate and subordinate clauses and the sentences with participials, gerund and infinitive constructions. The analysis leads to the conclusion that this sublanguage of the English language is well developed. The difficulties in translation of construction texts appear due to grammatical, morphological and syntactic phenomena of a source language which do not have direct correspondences in a target language, and require special professional skills of translators. The results of the investigation will be used while the creation of a database for English Belarusian electronic terminological vocabulary of construction subject matter.

References

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