

The role of the context in translation of phraseological units (based on Turkish periodicals)

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Abstract

The main objective of the article is to consider the role of the context in translating phraseological units in modern media discourse. The aim of the research has determined the following tasks: to consider the definition of text as a unit of the extralinguistic context of its own genre; to determine the role of extralinguistic context in translation of newspaper articles; to consider the concepts of narrow and broader contexts, which differ within the general concept of context. In the process of writing the article the comprehensive approach was used to study the role of context and situation in translating phraseological units: to identify the interrelation of idiomatic phrases with other elements of the text the contextological method, the method of complex analysis, the method of phraseological analysis, the methods of phraseological equivalent and phraseological counterpart were used. Playing a crucial part in the perception of the text in a source language during the transmission of the content in a target language, the context is one of the central concepts. In the result of working on the article we have come to the following conclusions: during the initial perception of the text the context is the necessary surrounding in which a word or another translation unit reveals its specific meaning; it's the base for the use of such words as independent of context, out of context, contextual.

Introduction

Translation of phraseological units shows considerable difficulties. This is explained by the fact that many of them are emphatic, emotionally coloured phrases belonging to a particular style of speech and often having certain national features. In the process of translation of phraseological units one should recognize the context in which they are used. It is important, first of all, to recognize its function in the text, define the role of context and the style of a text message, that is to extract the information contained on all the levels. And depending on the abovementioned a translator should choose the most appropriate techniques.

In the practice of translation the context is one of the central concepts, as it plays an important role in the process of perception (understanding) the source language text, and in the process of transferring the contents of the text into the target language. During the initial perception of the text the context is the necessary surrounding in which a word or another translation unit reveals its specific meaning; it's the base for the use of such words as independent of context, out of context, contextual. The abovementioned concerns, first of all, polysemantic linguistic units, which are attributed to a particular meaning taken from the environment of a certain volume.

The problem of the role of the context and the situation in translation was reviewed by many linguists and researchers in the field of translation. L.S. Barkhudarov relying on common understanding of the context as a linguistic environment, in which a certain linguistic unit is used, focuses on the necessity to distinguish the narrow context and the broader context. The narrow context refers to the context of the sentence, i.e. linguistic units that constitute the environment of the unit within the sentence. The broader context is understood as a linguistic environment of the unit that goes beyond a sentence, the text context, i.e. a set of linguistic units that surround the unit within the scopes which lie outside a sentence, in other words, in adjacent sentences. The precise scope of the broader context cannot be determined: it can a context of a group of sentences, paragraphs, chapters or even the whole work (a short story or a novel) as a whole. [1; p.75]

In order to identify the role of context in translation of phraseological units, one should consider the criteria, which determine this translation.

From the point of view of an interpreter, the crucial criterion is rethinking (full or partial). Even intermediate formations between phraseological units and variable phrases, between phraseological units and complex words, partially or completely rethought, take their rightful place among phraseological units.

In the process of translation of phraseological units similar in their inner form in different languages one must bear in mind that they are not always identical in their meaning, and under a similar shell in different languages there can be different meaning.

Rethinking is understood as semantic shifts different in their degree and nature. The stability of the phraseological level is understood as connectedness of the meanings of the components. Instead of the concept of “connectedness of the meaning”, V.G. Gak and Ya.I. Retsker proposed the principle of compatibility of the meanings. Semantic connectivity is understood as the relationship and interaction between the meanings of the components of a unit, i.e. bidirectional communication and interdependence of the meanings of the components that result in creating a complete rethinking of a phrase as a whole. This is true for the category of phraseological fusions or idioms, according to the classification of V.V. Vinogradov. This classification is convenient for the theory and practice of translation [4; p. 147].

When there is no compatibility of the meanings, one can only talk about rethinking of one of the components of a phraseological unit or about the integrity of rethinking of the whole phraseological unit, based on the metaphorization of a free word-combination, we observe the presence of a phraseological unity. The difference between phraseological unities and phraseological fusions is crucial in the process of translation. When a translator deals with phraseological units of the first group, especially in a newspaper or in any other text, which does not have the individual style of the author, he/she, bound by metaphorical “transparency” and phraseological unity, should transfer the figurativeness, if not identical, then at least close to the figurativeness of the original phraseological unit. Usually the genre adequacy is kept. Phraseological units of socio-political or socio-economical texts are usually translated as close to similar figurative phraseological units of the original text of the same genre as possible. Their use and naturalness in the target text should be observed.

Therefore, the translation of phraseological units is based on full or partial rethinking. To determine whether the context influences the process of rethinking of a phraseologism, one should consider its functioning in both the narrow and in the broader context. So, being used in the narrow context with different lexical environment, phraseological units have different translation:

Abuk sabuk ‘ilişki yazarları’ni takip edip onlardan ‘tüyo’ alacağını zanneden bir okur-yazar kitlemiz var. [6] – Існує маса грамотних людей, які слідуючи *безглуздом* статтями «експертів у взаєминах», вважають, що знайшли для себе керівництво до дії.

Abuk sabuk programlar yükleyip bilgisayarı hantallaştırıyor, sonra ben adam etmeye çalışıyorum [7] – *Навмання* завантажуючи програми засмічує комп’ютер, а потім я намагаюся привести все до ладу.

Mesela kitap satışları *zınk diye durdu* Kenan Evren darbesiyle. – Наприклад продаж книг *зупинився* після перевороту Кенан Еврена.

Daha henüz Şişli’ye gelmişim ki, önümde yol alan araç sinyal vermeden aniden *zınk diye durdu*. – Я тільки но доїхав до Шишли, як автомобіль, що їхав передімною, *встав, як вкопаний*.

But as we can see from the next example, the narrow context does not affect the translation of the following phraseologism:

Londra’ya gitmeyi **dört gözle beklemenin** sebebi, geçen sene yediğim en güzel yemeklerin başında gelen ‘Pierre Koffman’a’ tekrar uğrayabilmek. - Можливість знову завітати у ресторан ‘Pierre Koffman’, де у минулому році я куштував найсмачніші страви у своєму житті, стала однією з причин подоржі до Парижу, яку я *чекав з нетерпінням*.

Güven veren adalete ulaşma icraatlarını **dört gözle bekliyorum** – *Я з нетерпінням чекаю* на правосуддя, якому можно довіряти.

We shall now consider the impact of the broader context on the translation of phraseological units. We’ll take the translation of a phraseological unit ‘yerinde yeller esmek’, limiting the concept of the broader context by one paragraph.

Yalova’da geçen Nisan ayında kimliği belirsiz kişilerce tahrip edildikten sonra kaldırılan ünlü müzik adamı Onno Tunç Anıtı’nın *yerinde yeller esiyor*. Yalova’nın Armutlu İlçesi’nde 14 Ocak 1996 tarihinde geçirdiği uçak kazası sonrasında hayatını kaybeden müzisyen Onno Tunç anısına 2002 yılında Yalova’da yapılan iki anıttan biri olan Osmanlı Parkı içindeki anıt, aylardır yerinde yok [6]. - *Вже й сліду немає* від пам’ятника відомому музиканту Онно Тунчу у Айові, який демонтували після того, як він був розбитий невідомими у березні минулого року. Декілька місяців не має на місці одного з пам’ятників

на честь музиканта Онно Тунчу, встановлених у 2002 році в парку Османли м.Айова, після його загибелі у авіакатастрофі в районі Армутлу **міста Айова 14 січня 1996 року**.

NEW YORK - Bildik tatil ilanlarından biri: Bir spa merkezi ücretsiz yüz bakımı sunuyor. Ama küçük bir sorun var, zarftaki adresin *yerinde yeller esiyor*, mektubun gönderildiği kadın da Dünya Ticaret Merkezi (DTM) saldırısında hayatını kaybetti [7]. – Нью Йорк – Одне з оголошень-пропозицій на вихідні: Один Спа салон пропонує безкоштовні процедури догляду за обличчям. Але є невелика проблема, *вже й сліду нема* від адреси, зазначеної на конверті. Жінка, які відправила листа, загинула у Всесвітньому торговельному центрі під час нападу.

Ama nerisinden bakarsanız bakınız, bu bir cumhuriyettir. Başta padişah yoktur. Zaten padişah iki hafta sonra kaçmıştır. Yani, 29 Ekim 1923 günü cumhuriyetin ilanı, bir "formalitenin yerine getirilmesinden" ibarettir.' Dün bu satırlarla Cumhuriyet'in aslında 1 Kasım'da ilan edildiğini kaydeden Sabah Gazetesi yazarı Engin Ardıç, bugünkü yazısında da 1923 yılında kurulan Cumhuriyet'in *yerinden yeller estiğini* iddia etti [6]. – Але з будь-якої точки зору це була республіка. На чолі немає монарха. До того ж, падишах втік через два тижні. Тобто, день проголошення республіки 29 жовтня 1923 вважається «днем дотримання формальностей». Журналіст газети Сабах Енгін Ардіч, який вчора цими рядками зазначив, що Республіка була проголошена 1 листопада, в сьогоднішній статті стверджує, що вже *не залишилося і сліду* від тієї Республіки, яку заснували в 1923 році.

As we can see from the examples given above, the broader context does not affect the translation of the given phraseologism.

A.D. Schweitzer notes that the context, which should be considered while interpreting the meaning of text elements and finding their correspondences in the process of translation, forms a semantic relationship of fragments of a text. Therefore, it is appropriate to refer to the notion of the text, which is understood as a complete message having a content and organized by an abstract model of one of the existing in a literary language forms of a message (functional style, its varieties and genres) and is characterized by its distinctive features [5; p. 118].

Thus, the text is the result of work of speech processes (the main feature of which is completeness) given as a written document, literary processed according to the type of this document and consisting of the name (title) and a number of specific units (super phrases) united with the help of different types of lexical, grammatical, logical, stylistic connection that has a definite aim and a pragmatic direction. From this definition it follows the text should be understood not as oral speech recorded on paper, which is always spontaneous, unorganized, inconsistent, but as a special kind of linguistic creativity that has its own parameters different from the parameters of oral speech.

The text has its restrictions determined by its type. In some types of texts the restrictions are very remarkable and can be presented as some more or less strict rules, in other types they are so indistinct that they are very difficult to specify. However, in any type of the text, and in the text as a whole, one can find categorical features which distinguish it from other units of a language.

It should be noted that the text is subject to a certain system and having a content and distinctive features.

For a more explicit description of the features of the text and its categories it is necessary to clarify the concept of predication applied to the text. Predication is a transposition of the facts of a language into the facts of speech. I.R. Galeperin indicates that this complex logical and syntactic category should be understood in the abovementioned way. According to him, any act of speech is impossible without predication, only nomination of certain phenomena, events, actions [2; p. 21].

Results

Any text does not exist on its own, but is part of a complex system. In the process of writing a text (in our case – a newspaper article), the author relies on the texts that have been written before, he/she uses knowledge, terms, concepts borrowed from other texts, argues, quotes, adds new information, and develops some statements, that have not yet received detailed consideration. Thus, the text is a unit in the system of knowledge of a particular subject area. It is connected with invisible threads to other texts functioning in this system. This concept is known as extra-linguistic context.

Extralinguistic context is not limited to entering the text in the subject area. The text is part of extralinguistic context created by other texts of the same author, which constitute the author's ideology. The text is a way of organizing a fragment of space which is reproduced by the author in his/her mind. Each preceding and following text either makes changes into the way of organization or expands a fragment of space. In the result, in a particular text against the background of other works of the author one can see something bigger, namely, the development and refining of the author's viewpoints, which can only be understood in the given context.

The text is a unit of extralinguistic context of its own genre. The genre dictates formal rules of organizing the text and the choice of expressive units according to the field and established rules.

Therefore, extralinguistic context determines the role of the text and its meaning in different structures. In various contexts the texts plays various roles i.e. its different sides, aspects, structures are actualized. That is why any accurate evaluation of the text is not possible [3; pp. 71-72].

In our opinion, extralinguistic context plays an important role in the translation of phraseological units and newspaper articles in a whole. A large number of Turkish newspapers contain the texts of a political nature. The authors of the articles, examining a particular political problem in the country, use language symbols and express their opinion about the political situation in the country and the actions of the ruling party. It is clear, that the thought about the dependence of lexical means, used in the text, on the ideological position of the author or the source of the publication cannot be taken literally. But there is a correlation between them. In newspaper articles and journalism specification of inaccuracies of the original text can be motivated by specificity peculiar to the Ukrainian vocabulary. Secondly, the opinion of the author must be expressed in the translation more clearly than in the original text so that the Ukrainian reader could read between the lines the information, which is understandable for the Turkish reader in their own language. It doesn't concern the cases when the uncertainty is the purpose of the utterance.

As an example we shall take the article «İlahi - Bir - Komedi» (Divine Comedy), published in the newspaper «Cumhuriyet», in which the author gives an assessment of the actions of a politician in the country:

Aralarında *su sızmayan*, karşılıklı aile ziyaretleri yaptığı, ne ki bir yıldır hakkında söylemediğini bırakmadığı, halkını bombalıyor diye cehennemlik dediği, git deyince gideceğini, bir *kaşık suda boğacağını* sandığı Beşşar Esad şimdi *can düşmanı*. Irak Cumhurbaşkanı Yardımcısı Tarık Haşimi... Cami bombalamaktan ve Şii halka terör uygulamaktan ülkesinde üç kez idama mahkûm. RTE'nin himayesinde ülkemizin konuğu!

Ya Kaddafi? Libya'ya resmi ziyarette bulunan hocası Erbakan'ı karşısına alıp, terbiye sınırlarını aşan hakaretlerini sindiren RTE'nin; Kaddafi ile yıllarca süren, *can ciğer kuzu sarması* günlerini bir anda unutarak, Libya diktatörüne birden *düşman kesilmesine*, Kaddafi'nin "*Sırtından bıçakladı*" diye yorumladığı dostluk ve vefa anlayışına ne demeli? [7]

Башар Асад, людина, з якою раніше були *не розлий вода*, ходили друг до друга в гості, став залятим ворогом після того, як протягом року беззупину йшли розмови про те, що він заслужив *горіти в неклі* за бомбардування свого народу, що він здатен *втопити в ложці води*. Тарик Хашими, помічник президента Іраку... Три разово засуджений до страти у своїй країні за бомбардування мечеті та злочини проти шиїтів. Тепер він гість нашої країни та знаходиться під захистом RTE.

А як щодо Каддафі? Прийняв Ходжу Ербакана, який знаходився в Лівії з офіційним візитом, та приховав образу RTE; за одну мить забувши дні *щирої дружби*, раптово *перетворився на ворога* Лівійського диктатора, та що можна відповісти на слова Кадафі, які інтерпритують його поняття про дружбу та вірність: «*Він наніс мені удар у спину*»?

From the examples given above, we can see that the author of the article handles the realities unknown to the average Ukrainian reader. The article has a large number of phraseological units, which can be translated either by appropriate equivalents or loan-translation with further explanation. The average reader will find it difficult to handle abbreviated names of political parties and the names of some politicians of the country. Thus, in this case extralinguistic context plays an important role in translation.

Discussion

Thuswise, we have come to the conclusion that the context plays a significant role in the realization of polysemy of linguistic units, particularly phraseologisms. Apart from the cases of deliberate or accidental (unintentional) ambiguity, the context is the tool that "removes" all the meanings, except for one meaning, from any polysemantic unit. In this way the context provides any linguistic unit with monosemy and makes it possible to choose one of several equivalents potentially existing in the target language. Most certainly, the role of the context is not limited to the realization of the polysemantic words and other linguistic units; but this is its most important function.

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