



GENDER ASPECTS IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract. The article examines gender features of the translation of texts. Translating a work of fiction is a complex process, and translators often resort to using various types of transformations. So, in some cases, the translation of works makes it possible to determine the gender of the translation, and will reveal the peculiarities of the translation of women and men. Translation of a poem in most cases fluctuates between two extreme principles: a word-for-word accurate, but artistically inferior translation and an artistically complete, but far from the original, free translation. These two principles are reflected in two main points of view: the definition of translation from a linguistic and literary perspective.

Key words: gender aspect, translation, gender issues, characteristic, language structures.

Currently, the concept of “gender” is not a primitive category of gender; gender is considered as a sociocultural, discursive and psycholinguistic phenomenon. Interest in gender issues has existed for a long time, but was mainly in the field of anthropology and ethnography. In our country, the process of forming the scientific discipline of “linguistic genderology” is developing within the framework of several approaches. The first approach comes down to the interpretation of the exclusively social nature of the language of women and men, and is aimed at identifying those linguistic differences that can be explained by the peculiarities of the redistribution of social power in society. At the same time, language is defined as a certain functional derivative of the main language, used in cases where speech partners are at different levels of the social hierarchy. The second sociopsychologist approach reduces “female” and “male” language to the characteristics of linguistic behavior of the sexes; for scientists working in this direction, statistical indicators are of fundamental importance and form the framework for constructing psycholinguistic theories of male and female types of speech behavior.

Representatives of the third direction generally focus on the cognitive aspect in the linguistic behavior of the sexes. For them, it turns out to be more important not only to determine the frequency of differences and operate with its indicators, but also to create holistic linguistic models of the cognitive foundations of linguistic categories. In contrast to the category of sex status, and accordingly, the gender hierarchy and gender-based behavior patterns are not set by nature, but are “constructed” by society (doing gender), prescribed by institutions of social control and cultural traditions. Gender relations are an important aspect of social organization. Gender relations are fixed in language in the form of culturally determined stereotypes, leaving an imprint on the behavior of the individual, including speech. Today it is known that the same newborns are perceived depending on how they were presented to the observer - boys or girls. In the process of growth, a person, in accordance with his belonging to one of the two sex



classes, acquires the type of behavior that is characteristic in a given society for his social sex (gender). Thus, a person's gender identity is formed, which constitutes an important source of personal self-identification. Clichés reproduced in the media or otherwise contribute to further gender typification. The parallel organization of everyday life—men's and women's restrooms, men's and women's clothing departments, men's and women's magazines, toys for boys and girls—support a genderism that permeates life and an ideologized system of the significance of gender. Communication is unthinkable without observing certain rituals. Gender is a component of many rituals. Rituals are numerous, are performed constantly when people communicate and reproduce the norms and status relations accepted in society. Rituals facilitate communication because they have a signaling function.

Thus, the clothing style of men and women is ritualized. Men, as a rule, dress simply, strictly, functionally; women are more colorful, playful, less functional. Various actions or their components can also be ritualized: choice of vocabulary, style of speech, the very right to speak, the position of the speaker in space, intonation. The performance of ritual actions is dictated by society. In general, ritual norms, known to all members of communication, form the circle of people's expectations and their willingness to behave in accordance with their expectations, which reconstruct and symbolize social order. Such expectations exist in society regarding male and female behavior, appearance, and clothing. Stiletto heels on a man's foot affect those around him in a very specific way, although the biology of gender has absolutely nothing to do with it. The entire life of society is permeated with dichotomy - male and female. The concept of gender has been exciting the minds of both foreign and Uzbek scientists for decades. Gender research in linguistics has already taken shape as an independent direction, and questions of the relationship between language and the gender of its speakers (as well as the general problem of gender and the significance of this factor in the process of personal socialization) are attracting increasing attention from modern scientists. The most important shift in this direction was the appeal of linguistics to the human factor, that is, the study of language "in close connection with man, his consciousness, thinking, spiritual and practical activity".

The transition from immanent linguistics, which studied language in itself and for itself, to anthropological linguistics, marked a new paradigm of linguistic research - cognitive, the focus of which is the study of man as a system of receiving, processing, storing and transmitting information. A significant achievement is the creation of the theory of linguistic personality, which represents the optimal basis for linguistic research as a result of covering all stages of human speech and mental activity from the origin of communicative intention to the generation of the final product - the text. Scientific research data show that in society there really is a traditional distribution of roles, social rituals, stereotypes and expectations concerning, among other things, the emotional sphere of men and women.

Since the topic of gender characteristics of speech was of great interest to us, we conducted an independent analysis of male and female writing styles. The translations received from students were analyzed according to the following parameters:

- ❖ The number of words in the text (a word was taken to be a segment in the text between two adjacent spaces).
- ❖ Number of sentences in the text.
- ❖ Average sentence length (average number of words in a sentence, taken as the ratio of the number of words to the number of sentences).



- ❖ Number of speech errors in the translated text.
- ❖ Lexical diversity of the dictionary (calculated as the ratio of the number of different words, i.e. words occurring once in the text, to the total number of words to the total number of words in the translation).
- ❖ Distribution of words in the text by parts of speech.
- ❖ The ratio of the number of adjectives to the number of nouns.
- ❖ Ratio of the number of verbs to the number of nouns.
- ❖ Number of simple sentences.
- ❖ Number of complex sentences.
- ❖ Number of exclamatory sentences.

A stylistic analysis of the written speech of schoolchildren and female students revealed certain differences between their speech samples: Men's sentences were shorter in length than women's. The average length of a woman's sentence was about 27–30 words, while men's sentences averaged 20–23 words. Examples:

* *“После расстрела у Матадеро, они повели нас, родственников, видевших все, но не расстрелянных, с Матадеро, находящегося на крутом холме на лавную площадь города” [After the execution at the Matadero, they led us, relatives who had seen everything, but were not shot, from the Matadero, located on a steep hill, to the main square of the city] (16-year- male).*

* *“После перестрелки у Матадеро они собрали всех тех членов семей, которые были свидетелями всего происшедшего, но оставшихся в живых, и погнали нас в Матадеро вверх по крутому холму к главной площади города” [After the shootout at the Matadero, they gathered all those family members who had witnessed everything that happened but were still alive, and drove us into the Matadero up a steep hill to the main square of the city] (16-year- female).*

Примеры:

2. Number of words in the text. In the male translation of the entire text there are about 324–336 words, in the female translation of the entire text there are about 351–369 words.
3. Number of sentences in the text. Men have an average of 13–15 sentences, women have 17–23 sentences.
4. Men showed a higher frequency of use of nouns and adjectives.
5. In the speech of women there were much fewer verbs, while in the speech of men they dominate. When translating the entire text by male students, about 44 verbs were identified; in the female translation, there are an average of 32–39 verbs. Examples:



* “Я увидела свое лицо в зеркале и лица тех, кто держал меня и еще троих, что склонились надо мной, и я не знала никого из них, но в зеркале я видела и себя и их, тогда как они видели лишь меня” [I saw my face in the mirror and the faces of those who held me and three others who were bending over me, and I did not know any of them, but in the mirror I saw myself and them, while they saw only me] (12-year- male).

* “Я видела свое отражение в зеркале и лица тех, кто меня держал, и троих, которые склонились надо мной” (I saw my reflection in the mirror and the faces of those who held me, and the three who bent over me) (15 years old, female).

6. The number of adjectives in the masculine translation is about 7–10, in the feminine 4–6.
7. The lexical diversity of the dictionary is more typical for female translation. Thus, in the translation made by one of the students, action verbs are often replaced by equivalent verbs to avoid repetition and to convey the meaning more broadly. For example, the verb to cry is replaced by the equivalent verb to sob, the verb to see is replaced by the verbs to look, to observe.
8. There were fewer emotional and sensory assessments in the translation of men than in the translation of women. Examples:

*Послушай! Я тебе расскажу о том, что нас волнует [Listen! I'll tell you about what worries us] (17 years old, male);

*Послушай! Я расскажу тебе об одном событии, которое наложило отпечаток на всю нашу жизнь! [Listen! I will tell you about one event that left an imprint on our entire lives!] (17 years old, female).

9. In terms of constructing the structure of texts, women depict the world and reality in a greater variety of qualitative characteristics, colors, and features than men do.
10. Men's speech is more coherent.
11. Also, it is typical for men to use a subordinating connection in translation, rather than a coordinating one.
12. In translations made by boys, there were more errors than by girls.
13. A greater number of abstract nouns were found in male speech than in female speech. The nouns “shooting, scream, event” in the male translation occur very often. In the female translation, the most common nouns are “rifles, man, husband, executioner”.
14. Men more often use the imperative mood, and women use the subjunctive mood. Examples:



*Затем двое мужчин посмотрели на нас и один заметил: «Это дочь мэра». Другой сказал: «Начни с нее!» [Then two men looked at us and one remarked: “This is the mayor’s daughter.” Another said: “Start with her!”] (14 years old, male)

* Затем двое посмотрели на нас и один сказал: «Вот это дочь мэра, с нее мы и начнем» [Then two looked at us and one said: “This is the mayor’s daughter, we’ll start with her”] (14 years old, female).

The problem of the existence of psycholinguistic differences between men and women is considered one of the most pressing in modern linguistics and psychology. Today, in the context of the serious influence of feminism on various spheres of life and science, interest in it is especially great. Many researchers are trying to discover truly characteristic features and differences in the speech of men and women, which could be explained from the perspective of the dependence of an individual’s speech on his gender.

Thus, a study conducted on the basis of the translation of a fragment of a literary text showed a number of interesting differences. Based on the results of our experiment, we identified a significant relationship between the author’s gender and the characteristics of his use of language structures. Men’s sentences were shorter in length than women’s, and there was also a dominance of verbs in men’s speech. Lexical diversity of vocabulary and the predominance of emotional and sensory assessments were characteristic of women. This study showed that women depict the world and reality in a greater variety of qualitative characteristics, colors and features than men do.

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