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VERIFICATION AND SELF-REVISION AS CRITICAL STAGES OF THE TRANSLATION PROCESS (BASED ON TRANSLATIONS BY STUDENT INTERNS)

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Abstract: The article examines how the four functional stages of the translation process (comprehension, interpretation of meaning, re-expression and self-revision) operate in the work of translation students during their internship at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI). The material comprises student translations of institutional texts in both directions, English-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-English. Source and target texts are compared, and each residual defect is classified by its origin (inherited from the source text or introduced in translation) and by the stage at which it should have been detected. The analysis shows that most defects in texts submitted as final are caused not by the choice of target-language means as such, but by the absence of verification of names, figures, dates, speech acts and textual consistency. Directionality determines the type of risk: Ukrainian target texts suffer mainly from interference and violations of the national norm, English target texts from false friends, non-official names and the unrepaired logic of the Ukrainian source. A five-pass self-control procedure linked to the stages of the translation process is proposed for interns.

Keywords: Translation process, comprehension, interpretation, re-expression, self-revision, verification, directionality, translation internship, institutional discourse.

Introduction. For second-year students of the educational programme "English: Translation in Business Communication" at Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design the translation component of the internship comprises translating a Ukrainian press release into English and the host institution's business documents [1, p. 4-8]. At the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI), one of the main internship bases, students also translate English-language pages of the Chamber's website into Ukrainian and interpret at conferences, forums and business meetings. They therefore work in both directions and in both written and oral modes.

Among the expected learning outcomes, the programme lists the ability to edit translations and to exercise self-control, self-analysis and objective self-assessment of one's own translation activity [1, p. 4-6]. This outcome is the hardest to achieve. Editing and self-revision form a distinct stage within the iterative translation process, raising the question of why this stage fails in practice and what it should include in the institutional context of a chamber of commerce.

The purpose of the article is to analyse the stages of the translation process manifest themselves in internship translations at UCCI and to establish where, in the sequence comprehension – interpretation – re-expression – revision, residual defects originate. The tasks are: to outline the process models in which verification has a defined place; to classify defects in the students' final versions by origin and by stage; to compare the risks of English-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-English translation; to propose a self-control procedure for interns.

Theoretical framework. Process models share the rejection of translation as automatic substitution of linguistic units. E. Nida and C. Taber describe the process as analysis of the source message, transfer of the established content and its restructuring by natural means of the receptor language [2, p. 33]. The interpretive theory of D. Seleskovitch and M. Lederer represents it as comprehension, deverbalisation and re-expression: the translator works with sense rather than with the linguistic form of the original [3]. J. Delisle complements comprehension and reformulation with a third operation, verification, or confirmatory analysis, in which

the translator checks whether the chosen solution corresponds to the established sense, the context and the norms of the target language [4]. J. Levý regards translating, from the point of view of the translator's working situation, as a decision process in which every choice narrows the range of subsequent choices [5, p. 1171].

Verification is most explicit in D. Gile's Sequential Model. In the comprehension phase, the translator formulates a meaning hypothesis for each translation unit and tests it for plausibility against linguistic and extralinguistic knowledge; in the reformulation phase, the target version is tested for fidelity and acceptability, and a failed test sends the translator back to an earlier step [6, p. 101-106]. Verification is thus a recurrent operation built into every phase.

Professional standards treat self-revision as obligatory. ISO 17100 requires the translator, on completion of the initial translation, to check his or her own target-language content before it is revised by another person (clause 5.3.2) [7]. In a student internship, self-revision and a brief check by the supervisor are often the only filters before a text is published. Translation-oriented source text analysis, which in C. Nord's model begins with extratextual factors such as sender, recipient, time and function of the text [8], is an important complement: institutional source texts may themselves be drafts or translations, and the translator must notice their defects and decide whether to correct them, reproduce them or query the author.

Material and method. The material comprises three sets of student texts produced during internships at UCCI. Set A is the English-Ukrainian translation of a speech delivered on behalf of UCCI at the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction (Tokyo, 19 February 2024). Set B is the English-Ukrainian translation of written answers to an interview for the Japanese newspaper Nikkei (dated 13 February 2024); its final paragraph was translated in the opposite direction, from Ukrainian into English. Set C comes from a 2023 internship report: Ukrainian-English translations of a press release, a fragment of the UCCI Code of Ethics, an economic review and a statement on agricultural exports, and an English-Ukrainian text about German supermarkets. All fragments are quoted without the names of the students.

The method combines comparative analysis of source and target texts with verification of facts and names against primary sources. The analysis is qualitative and illustrative; it does not establish the frequency of error types.

Results and discussion. ***Comprehension.*** Defects at this stage arise when a unit is understood linguistically but its referent remains unidentified. In set A the speaker thanks the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and KEIDANREN; the student translates the latter as *компанії KEIDANREN*. Keidanren is the Japan Business Federation and one of the co-hosts of the conference [9]; calling it a company misinforms the Ukrainian reader about the status of the partner. In the same text, *creates valuable foreign exchange for post-war reconstruction* becomes *створює цінну іноземну валюту*: the economic term *foreign exchange* (foreign currency earnings) is read as a combination of two ordinary words, whereas the sense requires *забезпечує валютні надходження для післявоєнної відбудови*.

Comprehension failures are most visible in the English-Ukrainian text of set C. Its final version contains sentences that do not form a coherent meaning in Ukrainian (*Згідно з відгуками в Інтернеті, він погодився на покупку Lidl*; *Багато речей є обов'язковими*) and a measurement whose unit is cut off (*від 700 до 1800 кв.*). The cause can only be hypothesised, e.g. an unread machine draft, but the defect is detectable by a monolingual reading alone.

Interpretation and verification. At this stage the translator relates the text to the communicative situation and to background knowledge, and it is here that inherited defects should be intercepted. In set B the source states that Nestlé will invest “about 40 million French francs (over $6 million)” in a plant in the Volyn region. The French franc was replaced by the euro in 2002, and the company announced an investment of 40 million Swiss francs (about $43 million) in its new production site in Smolyhiv [10]. The student reproduces both the currency and the dollar equivalent: *40 млн французьких франків (понад $6 млн)*. The same interview, dated February 2024, says that the development of a graphite deposit may begin “as early as 2023” and that a plant in Lviv plans to produce building materials “as early as the end of 2023”; the translation keeps *вже у 2023 році* and *вже*

наприкінці 2023 року. Such temporal deixis was correct when the source was first compiled, but is outdated at the moment of publication. In these cases, the appropriate action is not a silent correction, but a query to the author or supervisor, recorded in a list of questions attached to the translation.

Official names require the same verification. The *Reconstruction Agency* becomes *Агентство реконструкції*, whereas the Ukrainian body is the State Agency for Restoration and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine (*Державне агентство відновлення та розвитку інфраструктури України*), which signed a memorandum with the Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation (KIND) in September 2023 [11]; the source's "Korea Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation", without the word *Overseas*, passes into the translation unchanged. In set A the name of the conference is translated as *Японсько-українська конференція зі сприяння економічному зростанню та реконструкції*, and in the heading as *Японо-українська*, while the joint communiqué published by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine uses *Японсько-українська конференція зі сприяння економічному зростанню та відбудові* [12]. The material also contains a successful interpretive decision. The source of set B states that UCCI is a member of "the World Chambers Federation (ICC)", combining the name of one organisation with the abbreviation of another. The student translates *Міжнародної торгової палати (ICC)*, i.e. resolves the contradiction in favour of the abbreviation. Since the World Chambers Federation is a working body of the International Chamber of Commerce [13], the decision is defensible; a more precise variant would be *Всесвітньої федерації торгових палат Міжнародної торгової палати (ICC WCF)*. Interpretation also covers implicit illocution. In set A, after the words *we have maintained a highly vibrant partnership with our Japanese counterparts*, the speaker lists organisations with the formula *– for organizing…*, *– for conducting…*, which implies gratitude. The student begins with the instrumental case governed by *партнерство з* (*Японською торгово-промисловою палатою (JCCI) – за організацію…*) and then switches to the dative (*Японській організації зовнішньої торгівлі (JETRO) – за проведення…*). The list becomes grammatical only after the

implicit speech act is made explicit: *Зокрема, ми вдячні: Японській торгово-промисловій палаті (JCCI) – за…* In set B the journalist asks whether the Chamber has *any request to the Japanese Government*, and the answer lists *possible request[s]*; the translation heads this list *Можливі пропозиції* and thus turns a request into a proposal. The simile *organizations like ours become like parents to businesses* becomes *стають батьками для бізнесу*: the hedge disappears and the image becomes categorical.

Re-expression. In English-Ukrainian translation, the main risks at this stage are interference of the source structure and violations of the national norm. The form of address *Ваша Високоповажносте, Прем'єр-міністр України – пан Денис Шмигаль!* combines the vocative with the nominative, whereas Ukrainian protocol requires the vocative throughout (*пане Прем'єр-міністре*); errors in forms of address are typical of student translators working with business discourse [14].

Ukrainian-English re-expression shows a different profile. The press release in set C opens with *On May 10, in Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design will host the 8th International conference*: the Ukrainian adverbial of place is retained as a prepositional phrase, and the sentence loses its subject. *Сприяє налаштуванню міжнародних зв'язків* is rendered as *contributes to the adjustment of international relations*, and *Саутгемптонський університет* as *Southampton University* instead of the official *University of Southampton*. In the Code of Ethics, *ТПП України виключає дискримінацію клієнтів* becomes *The UCCI excludes the discrimination of clients* (better: *does not tolerate discrimination against clients*), and *Інструкцією з діловодства* becomes *the instructions on business administration*, although *діловодство* denotes records management. In the economic review, *ТОВ* is reproduced as *TOV* instead of *LLC*.

Translation into English also exposes defects of the Ukrainian source that its reader easily overlooks. In the statement on agricultural exports, *Таким чином, світ уник загрози продуктовій безпеці світу* is reproduced as *Thus, the world avoided a threat to food security of the world*, and the claim that farmers took second place "in financing the country's GDP" (meaning their contribution to GDP) remains illogical

in English. The expression *«транзитний безвіз»* becomes *visa-free transit*, although it refers to Ukraine's accession on 1 October 2022 to the Convention on a Common Transit Procedure, popularly called the "customs visa-free regime" [15]. In the final paragraph of set B, *посилення кредиту для позик Світового банку*, itself a calque of an English financial term, is rendered as *strengthening of the World Bank's loan facility*, while the original announcement referred to loan guarantees for World Bank lending to Ukraine [16]. When a Ukrainian text is a translation of an English institutional formula, re-expression in English means retrieving the established term rather than translating the Ukrainian words back.

Self-revision. The residual defects that are hardest to justify are those detectable without the source text at all. In set B the sentence *По-п'яте, високотехнологічне виробництво та сфери, пов'язані з обороною* appears twice, reproducing a duplication in the source; the investor is called *Onur Group* in one sentence and *Група Онур* in another; the paragraph on graphite mining is headed *Металургійна промисловість*, and the investment of a pharmaceutical concern in seed production appears under *Хімічна промисловість*, again following the source. In set A the speaker uses the first person singular throughout (*I am honored*, *I express my gratitude*), yet the Ukrainian text ends with *Дякуємо вам!*; the sentence *Така стратегічна адаптація сприяє міжнародному співробітництву та сприяє майбутньому зростанню* contains a repetition absent from the source (*fosters … and facilitates*). None of these defects requires subject knowledge; each requires a separate reading pass with a specific question in mind.

Cyclicity of stages. The material shows that decisions made at one point must be revisited later. In set A the word *reconstruction* is rendered as *реконструкції* in the name of the conference and as *відбудови* in *post-war reconstruction*. In set B the same word appears in *the reconstruction of Boryspil Airport*, where *реконструкція аеропорту* is the appropriate technical term. Only this later context makes it clear that *reconstruction* has two equivalents depending on the referent – a country or a facility – and that the earlier choice in the name of the conference must be changed to the official *відбудові*. This is the backward movement predicted by Gile's model

[6, p. 101-106].

Directionality. The type of risk depends on the direction of translation. In English-Ukrainian translation, native intuition is available but is weakened by interference: calques, case government, forms of address and orthographic norms are the main problems, so the decisive self-revision pass is monolingual and normative. In Ukrainian-English translation, the student works into a non-native language, which, as N. Pokorn argues, does not in itself rule out quality, but makes the result dependent on the translator's knowledge of target conventions and on the resources used [17]. Here the main risks are false friends, non-official names, unfamiliar conventions and the logic of the Ukrainian source, which has to be repaired rather than reproduced; verification against English-language primary sources is the critical stage.

A self-control model for interns. On the basis of the analysis, we propose the following procedure. Each pass is guided by one question and linked to a stage of the translation process. 1) *Pre-translation verification* (comprehension and interpretation): determine the author, date, addressee and genre; list all organisations, events, persons and figures; find their official names in primary sources; record source defects in a list of queries for the supervisor. 2) *Meaning pass* (bilingual, segment by segment): completeness, logical links, modality, speech acts (request, gratitude, proposal, invitation). 3) *Facts pass*: every number, unit, currency and date is compared with the source and checked against the date of publication; each name is rendered in one form throughout the text. 4) *Norm pass* (monolingual): grammar and case government, forms of address, orthography (the 2019 Ukrainian Orthography or English conventions), the official transliteration system, company forms and number notation, a personal list of calques and false friends. 5) *Genre and addressee pass*: headings, opening and closing formulas, the person and number of the speaker, duplicated or truncated segments, layout.

Conclusions. The weakest links of the translation process in internship translations at UCCI are not the search for target-language equivalents, but the checks of what has been understood and what has been written. Residual defects fall into two

groups: inherited defects of the source (outdated temporal references, a non-existent currency, conflicting names, duplicated sentences), which pass through comprehension and interpretation unverified, and introduced defects (calques, wrong case government, inconsistent names, shifts in speech acts), which survive self-revision. Directionality changes the risk profile: translation into Ukrainian requires above all a monolingual normative check, whereas translation into English requires verification of names, terms and conventions against English-language primary sources. Self-revision becomes effective when it is organised as a series of passes, each guided by one question, and when a list of queries to the author is regarded as a legitimate result of the translator's work. Further research requires a corpus of anonymised drafts and final versions to measure the effect of the proposed procedure.

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