Maria L. Alekseyeva/Anna V. Pavlova

Prospects for the development of phraseological reference books

An adequate reproduction of idiomatic meaning in translation remains one of the most difficult tasks for bilingual phraseography as lemmas and their equivalents in the target language should have comparable semantic and pragmatic characteristics. Depending on the language combination, specific problems arise. This paper deals with the specificity of phraseological studies in bilingual lexicography for German and Russian. It offers a promising new direction in bilingual lexicography, namely diachronic translation dictionaries. This approach is based on the example of a diachronic Russian-German phraseological dictionary.

In his book *Conversations about the German word*, Dobrovolsky devoted a large chapter to the problems of covering and presenting phraseological units in bilingual lexicography (Dobrovol'skij 2013, pp. 571–670). In particular, he analyzed the currently available bilingual German-Russian and Russian-German phraseological dictionaries and described their advantages and disadvantages. The main disadvantage of traditional bilingual phraseological dictionaries consists primarily in a large number of errors in the translation. These errors are due to the fact that the dictionary either provides an expression that is not used in the target language (i. e., "they do not say it like that"), a translation that deviates from the original in its meaning, or a translation that is different from the original in how it combines with other words combinatorics (compatibility) or how often it is used (frequency). The main task of a bilingual phraseological dictionary which claims the status of an active dictionary, i. e. helping to generate texts in a non-native language, is primarily to give equivalents, not at the level of the language system but at the level of real use, i. e. speech. However, due to the almost limitless variety of real-world contexts and the uses of lexicographers, they still have to make choices and to focus on certain translation options. Equivalence in a dictionary entry should be based on the functional approach, which consists in finding a certain compromise between a large number of real life uses and an abstract language "meaning" outside specific texts. In other words, the lexicographer should focus on the most frequent, common and likely contexts. An extensive corpus of parallel texts should serve as the basis for such a dictionary. In order to find the most frequent and repetitive translations, so as to be able to claim the status of the most adequate translations in the whole mass of translations, modern lexicography based on text corpora uses the method of co-competition (*Kookkurrenzanalyse*, see Steyer 2003, 2009). Translations should be accompanied by the lexicographer's comments on the grammatical conditions of use, compatibility, frequency and pragmatics (Dobrovol'skij 2013, pp. 664–665).

Taking into account the recommendations of modern lexicographical studies and having considerable experience in teaching translation, the authors of this article offer a new approach to the study of diachronous interlingual phraseological equivalents based on a corpus of parallel translations taken from different periods in time.

The project, which will be discussed later, was preceded by a study of translations of the same texts from different eras, the compilation of diachronic parallel corpora and the publication of several diachronic bilingual dictionaries for translators. Since changes in the

techniques and adequacy of translation in diachrony have been studied very poorly so far, a study was conducted of 30 parallel multi-temporal translations of 5 major novels by Dostoevsky dating from the period 1882–2003 (only for non-equivalent vocabulary). The study also recorded changes in the techniques and quality of translation of this layer of vocabulary every few decades. These studies allowed us to formulate the basic principles of a diachronic corpus of parallel translations.

On the basis of the parallel corpus of 30 German translations of 5 of Dostoevsky's major novels, several diachronic translation dictionaries and reference books were developed, namely a Russian-German diachronic dictionary of realia (Alekseyeva 2007), an electronic diachronic Russian-German dictionary of realia illustrated in colour (Alekseyeva 2008) and a diachronic Russian-German reference book of realia (Alekseyeva 2016). The diachronic Russian-German dictionary of phraseological units, which will be discussed later, is in development.

The choice of Dostoevsky's works and their translations is not accidental. None of the Russian classics is read abroad with such intense interest as Dostoevsky's. The writer's works are monuments to thought and creativity, attracting increasing attention every year and playing a role in the movement of world culture. They have not lost their philosophical, psychological and social meaning and have retained their aesthetic value. Currently Dostoevsky is one of the most frequently translated writers in the world. The Romanian philologist Albert Kovacs has pointed out that in terms of the frequency of citation in the world, Dostoevsky's works are third after the Bible and Shakespeare's plays (Kovač 2008).

The empirical foundation of the research in the field of phraseology which is discussed in this article was F. M. Dostoevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov* and the corpus of parallel translations of this work done by German translators, namely H. Samson von Himmelstjerna (1884), E. K. Rahsin (1906), R. von Walter (1930), H. Ruoff and R. Hoffmann (1958), W. Creutziger (1981) and S. Geier (2003). Dostoevsky's novel is full of phraseological units on different stylistic levels and presents a wide field for research. The study of translation decisions taken at different times is of particular interest. A comparison of translations done in different cultural and historical periods allows us to make assumptions on how a particular era influenced the translation.

The phraseological layer is very slowly becoming obsolete. Many of the idioms that the reader encounters in Dostoevsky's works remain relevant in modern Russian so the phrasemes and their translations were chosen as the object of research. The main purpose is to offer a new method for the lexicography of phrases in a bilingual translation dictionary. The authors introduce their project of a diachronic Russian-German dictionary of phraseological units.

The suggested dictionary presents a combination of words from the writer's novels with a high degree of stability and idiomaticity that do not have a phraseological correspondence, that is, a stable idiomatic expression in German, non-equivalent phraseological units in other words. It is obvious that professional translators cope with their task by selecting units with similar meaning in the absence of formal similarity or by transferring the required meaning descriptively, by various means available in the target language with the help of a free combination of words. The selection of translated equivalents varies widely. However, descriptive translations are not units in the phraseological system of another

language. This dictionary shows the specificity of Dostoevsky's meanings in the translated text and the writer's experiments with the language as well as the creative individuality of the translators. It also outlines the possibilities and boundaries of the language as well as the dynamics of translation techniques in diachrony. It helps to identify a wide range of ways to convey the author's phraseology in German with the help of an idiom, sometimes a free combination, a single word, an occasional figurative expression or periphrasis.

The diachronic translation dictionary of phraseological units introduces the reader to information about the meaning of a phraseological unit, its stylistic level, its frequency of use in oral and written form in modern Russian and the tradition of its transfer into German.

Each dictionary entry includes a mandatory and optional lexicographic zone:

1) lemma – Russian phraseme and its variants (if any);
2) interpretation of the meaning in phraseological dictionaries of Russian with a translation into German;
3) stylistic comments;
4) indications on the frequency of use in written and oral speech (W/O) based on the data of the National Corpus of the Russian language;
5) an example from the Russian context of the novel;
6) German equivalents with the context (one sentence in length) from parallel translations (introduced by the date of the first edition of the translation).

The following example reveals the microstructure of the dictionary:

Phraseologism	**отвести душу** *чем.* (~ get a certain satisfaction)
Dictionary definition	to achieve a kind of satisfaction thanks to the fulfilment of a wish
Style	casual-colloquial
Frequency W/O	167/high
Russian context	*F. D.* p. 482. **Отвели душу**? – проговорил он, уставясь с вызовом на следователя и прокурора.
Translation № 1	*S. H.,* 1898, V. III, p. 147. **War das eine Herzenserleichterung**! Herausfordernd stierte er den Untersuchungsrichter und den Procureur bei diesen Worten an.
Translation № 2	*E. R.*, 1906, p. 763. „**Hat jetzt Ihre liebe Seele Ruh**?" fragte er mit herausforderndem Blick auf den Untersuchungsrichter und den Staatsanwalt.
Translation № 3	*R. W.*, 1930, p. 380. „**Haben Sie sich das Herz erleichtert**?" stieß er hervor und blickte den Untersuchungsrichter und den Staatsanwalt herausfordernd an.
Translation № 4	*H. R. and R. H.,* 1958, p. 627. „**Ist Ihnen jetzt leichter ums Herz**?" sagte er und starrte den Untersuchungsrichter und den Staatsanwalt herausfordernd an.

Translation № 5	*W. C.,* 1981, V. II, p. 231.
	„**Ist es Balsam für Ihre Seelen**?" stieß er hervor und blickte herausfordernd auf den Untersuchungsrichter und den Staatsanwalt.
Translation № 6	*S. G.,* 2003, pp. 752.
	„…**hat nun die arme Seele Ruh**?" fragte er und starte den Ermittlungsrichter und den Staatsanwalt an.

The dictionary is an explanatory-translated one as the idioms are arranged in alphabetical order by the first letter of the reference to the components that are supplied with explanations, if necessary, including historical references, a commentary, stylistic comments and, in chronological order, parallel translations into German.

The dictionary does not give appraisals of translation decisions. It is assumed that the dictionary can be used as a textbook for students at faculties or departments of translation. Students can independently conduct comparative analyses and discuss translation decisions, strategies and techniques, etc.

We consider the development of diachronic translation dictionaries to be a promising direction in bilingual phraseography. The study of a large number of translation equivalents can shed light on temporary changes in language and phraseological translation techniques as well as translation strategies, translation preferences and translation quality.

References

Alekseyeva, Maria L. (2007): Russisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch der Realien in den Romanen Dostojewskis, Jekaterinburg: Uraler Staatliche Pädagogische Universität.

Alekseyeva, Maria L. (2008): Das digitale Nachschlagewerk „Russische Realien im Spiegel der deutschen Sprache". Jekaterinburg: Uraler Staatliche Pädagogische Universität.

Alekseyeva, Maria L. (2016): Das diachronische russisch-deutsche Übersetzungswörterbuch der Realien. Jekaterinburg: Uraler Staatliche Pädagogische Universität.

Dobrovol'skij, Dmitrij O. (2013): Besedy o nemeckom slove. Moskau: Jazyki slavjanskoj kul'tury.

Kovač, Albert (2008): Poetika Dostojevskogo. Übersetzung aus dem Rumänischen von E. Loginovskaja. Moskau: Vodolej Publishers.

Steyer, Kathrin (2003): Korpus, Statistik, Kookkurrenz. Lässt sich Idiomatisches „berechnen"? In: Burger, Harald/Häcki Buhofer, Annelies/Greciano, Gertrud (Hg.): Flut von Texten – Vielfalt der Kulturen. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider, pp. 33–46.

Steyer, Kathrin (2009): Zwischen theoretischer Modellierung und praxisnaher Anwendung. Zur korpusgesteuerten Beschreibung usueller Wortverbindungen. In: Mellado Blanco, Carmen (Hg.): Theorie und Praxis der idiomatischen Wörterbücher. Berlin/New York: De Gruyter, pp. 119–145. (= Lexicographica Series maior 135). (Online: https://ids-pub.bsz-bw.de/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/4157/file/Steyer_Zwischen_theoretischer_Modellierung_und_praxisnaher_Anwendung_Zur_korpusgesteuerten_Beschreibung_usueller_Wortverbindungen_2009.pdf, Stand: 20.7.2019).