УДК 81’25:004.934

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МЕЖДИСЦИПЛИНАРНОЕ ЗНАЧЕНИЕ МАШИННОГО ПЕРЕВОДА ПРИ ИЗУЧЕНИИ ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ ПО СПЕЦИАЛЬНОСТИ «ИЗДАТЕЛЬСКОЕ ДЕЛО И РЕДАКТИРОВАНИЕ»
INTERDISCIPLINARY SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPUTER TRANSLATION IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE SYLLABUS FOR STUDENTS SPECIALIZING IN PUBLISHING AND EDITING

Междисциплинарное значение машинного перевода для студентов по специальности «Издательское дело и редактирование» заключается том, что наряду с более глубоким изучением иностранного языка в результате анализа грамматических и лексических структур тренируются профессиональные навыки корректуры и редактирования. Анализ ошибок, допускаемых программами машинного перевода, помогает редактировать тексты, переведённых с помощью компьютера, более тщательно, что, безусловно, способствует развитию профессионального мастерства у студентов.

All those who deal with translation, especially in case of large text volume, have some experience of using computer translators. That is special computer systems for translating. Study and analysis of these systems are useful not only for language experts and translators, but also for future editors and proofreaders. It helps them improve their language by deeper analysis of grammar and lexical structures as well as their professional skills in editing of texts translated by computer. Though high speed of computer translation should be appreciated, this advantage is completely outweighed by poor quality of translation, which sometimes sounds ridiculous, not making any sense or even opposite in meaning. Due to theoretical knowledge in the fields of proofreading and computer translation students can apply their professional skills in editing and correct the text after it has been translated by PC. Thus the use of computer translation for the sake of further correction by students is highly relevant in groups of future editors as in this case they not only study translation as an aspect of foreign language learning, but are also involved in their professional activities. Computer translation has therefore become worth studying and acquired interdisciplinary significance as providing an important link between a foreign language and students’ future profession.

So, what does theoretical knowledge of computer translation include? First of all, for linguists (not for programmers) it includes thorough understanding of mistakes computer translators make. Then we can correct them and turn some poor translation into a good one.

We can’t but question ourselves why perfect translation systems can’t be developed in the century of high technologies? Why are there so many mistakes? To understand this fact and to gain knowledge in this field let’s analyze computer translator mistakes. In whole all of them can be divided into 4 groups: the so called “lexical mistakes”, semantic mistakes, bound up with lexical ones, grammatical and stylistic mistakes. We don’t mark out syntactical mistakes as a separate group as they are inevitable consequences of semantic and grammatical ones.

The most common problem is lexical mistakes. The term itself is quite conventional, as we use it for inappropriate words chosen incorrectly among meanings of polysemantic words by a computer translator. These mistakes are very frequent and very noticeable while proofreading as they contradict with the normal speech. For example: *“Frequently apartments are without lights but have several outlets for table or floor lamps” – «Часто квартиры – без огней, но имеют несколько выходов для стола или торшеров»* (the right translation is following: «Зачастую в квартирах нет люстр, но зато есть несколько розеток для настольных ламп или торшеров»). Or: *“Virtually all apartments have built-in closets with doors…” – «Фактически все квартиры имеют встроенные туалеты с дверями*. Here you see several examples of lexical mistakes. They are evident. What is interesting, a computer does not choose the most

popular meaning, which is the first in a dictionary. The principle of computer choice is difficult to explain.

The particular case of lexical mistakes is stylistic mistakes, which are more difficult for editing as you need some experience and editing skills to point them out. But they are no more than small details compared to over-literal rendering and grammatical mistakes which together with lexical ones demand so much time to be corrected. Grammatical mistakes mean that a computer translator chooses an inappropriate form of translation or just mixes up the links between words so the sentence doesn't make any sense. For example, we can get such a translation: *"Авторы информационных бюллетеней компании и журналов, прежде всего используя информацию для новостей, сообщая о целях, вообще являются в пределах границ справедливого понятия {концепции} использования".* But to give credit for computer translators, they are able to recognize and transform some language units, but no longer than 2 words. For example: *"whether an organization is in some way obtaining" – "получает ли организация…"* The translation here is right, the form has been recognized correctly, otherwise it would be translated as a participle.

Nevertheless when an antonymous translation or transformations on a sentence level are necessary, a computer system is helpless as this level of translation seems to be unavailable. Explanation to this can be the following: a translator (a human being) should transform not language units but speech ones. It makes an adequate translation possible including transformations of idioms, extralinguistic information and contextual meanings. Sometimes speech unit may be equal to language units, but sometimes they may consist of several paragraphs or even the whole text. Only human mind can understand this difference and meanings of speech units. A computer program is not able to reveal this process. It can select only meanings from a dictionary, not contextual ones. It can successfully transform a unit of no more that 3 linked words, which is the maximum. What is more, there are a lot of different processes and renovations in all languages which can't be described in dictionaries simultaneously. That's why there are no perfect computer translation systems nowadays. Current computer translators may be good assistants in some cases, but nevertheless translators, proofreaders and editors should improve their skills and work together.