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## ПЕРЕВОДЧЕСКИЕ, УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ И СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ ЭЛЛИПТИЧЕСКИХ КОНСТРУКЦИЙ

Эллиптические конструкции, допускающие опущение некоторых элементов предложения при однозначном смысловом восстановлении, представляют сложность при переводе, т.к. английский язык обладает большей компрессией излагаемого материала, в то время как русский язык требует большей детализации. Эллиптические конструкции являются частью учебных программ на различных уровнях обучения иностранному языку. В художественной литературе эллипсис используется как стилистическое средство, которое может косвенно описывать характер персонажа и иметь различные стилистические коннотации, в частности, использоваться в характерологической юмористике. Изучение эллипса способствует снижению недопонимания между собеседниками и большей ясности при коммуникации. Знание эллиптических конструкций способствует повышению уровня общей языковой компетентности учащихся.

An ellipsis is the omission from a sentence of some word or words needed to complete the sense or the construction. The term 'elliptical sentence' implies absence of one or both principal parts (the subject and/or the predicate). The missing parts are either present in context or they are implied by the situation. What is important paradigmatically is that elliptical sentences are correlative with complete ones, being their concrete "syntactical synonyms".

Elliptical constructions are fairly widespread. They are typical of colloquial speech making the sentence more laconic and fluent. They are widely used in advertisements, newspapers and magazines (especially in headlines) to concentrate readers on the most important facts. Moreover, for the sake of business-like brevity, they are very frequent in papers or handbooks on technology or natural science, in encyclopedic dictionaries, reference books, in proverbial and aphoristic sayings. All kinds of elliptical constructions can be seen in telegraphic messages for the purpose of saving money.

Sometimes elliptical constructions present a certain difficulty for translation. You may be aware of the fact that the Russian version is always more detailed in comparison with the English one. The English language is known to allow more compression than the Russian language and in the process of translation it is necessary that brief elliptical constructions should be "decoded" more elaborately in a greater number of words. An average student of English should get used to such constructions before a teacher may expect him to translate them. Here is an example from advertisers' language: one television commercial for a new model of car ran as follows:

Once driven, forever smitten, which is clearly patterned on such sayings as 'Once seen, never forgotten'. Interestingly enough, 'driven' refers to the car, but 'smitten' refers to the driver who tries it out. As for the translation, we can suggest Раз поводишь, навсегда запомнишь only as the first in a series of possibly better versions

As soon as elliptical constructions are not very easy to understand, they should be included in educational programs at different levels. The main rules of the use of ellipsis must be studied at high school and university and should be taken into consideration so as to avoid misunderstanding between interlocutors. Developing communicative skills (that include understanding between speakers) is of primary importance in accordance with the communicative approach. For this reason, there must not be mistakes that can hinder communication. Furthermore, the principle of

teaching from simplicity to complexity should be observed. It is advisable to begin studying elliptical constructions in the following order:

1. At a pre-intermediate level students should study the constructions So/Nor/Neither/Either. So is used to agree with positive statements. Nor/Neither/Either are used to agree with negative statements.

If a student is not properly taught ellipsis at this level, he is sure say “yes” when reacting to a statement. It is interesting to note that native speakers complain that the Russians say “yes” too often.

2. At an intermediate level students encounter more difficult texts from fiction and they should be able to perceive elliptical constructions in order to understand the text better. They should study elliptical constructions with conjunctions ‘although, though, if, once, when, while’.

Though very ill, the drugs cured him quite quickly.

A bullet can’t alter its course, while in flight.

3. Teaching elliptical constructions at the upper-intermediate level involves idiomatic usage as manifested in proverbs (Once bitten twice shy) and sayings as well as in more complex literary texts, in which a character’s disposition may be clarified through the use of elliptical constructions typical of his conversational style.

4. Teaching English for special purposes such as academic and business English in the second-third year student groups of our university is also supposed to familiarize students with elliptical constructions with conjunctions whatever, no matter how, however, if any, etc.

The nucleus determines the radioactive properties of the atom, if any.

No matter how weak the initial impulse, it gives the body a forward motion.

In stylistic purposes elliptical constructions are used to reproduce the direct speech of characters, to impart brevity, a quick tempo or emotional tension to the author’s narrative. It is important to distinguish two styles of communication: formal and informal. For instance, they can’t be used in conferences, negotiations and formal letters. In addition to it, elliptical constructions can be deliberately used in a wrong way to create a comic effect.

“Just arrived. Elephant passed through half an hour ago, creating the wildest fright and excitement. Elephant ranged around streets; two plumbers going by killed –other escaped. Regret general. O’Flaherty, Detective.”

The reader has undoubtedly noticed all the gaps where articles should be. One might remark here in passing that the sentence “Regret general” (= there is general regret) is purposely ambiguous: the addressee can never be sure if the sender regrets the death of the first plumber, or the fact that the second escaped the impending disaster.

Elliptical constructions reflect a tendency of the English language to compression. The notion of ellipsis enhances student awareness of linguistic variety. Studying elliptical constructions at different levels contributes to the clarity of communication and develops linguistic competence of students.