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USUAL AND OCCASIONAL EQUIVALENTS OF CHARAC- TONYMS: CASE-STUDY OF TWO TRANSLATIONS

OBVYKLÉ A OBČASNÉ EKVIVALENTY JMEN LITERÁRNÍCH POSTAV: PŘÍPADOVÁ STUDIE DVOJÍHO PŘEKLADU

Článek se zabývá strategiemi v překladech jmen literárních postav v knize Historie jednoho města od ruského spisovatele Michaila Jevgrafoviče Saltykova-Ščedrina a románu The Monikins od amerického spisovatele Jamese Fennimora Coopera. Článek předkládá vzácný případ porovnávání jednotlivých způsobů interpretace jmen v překladech z ruštiny do angličtiny a z angličtiny do ruštiny, který se mimo jiné prosazuje i ve studiích literární onomastiky. Článek porovnává onymický prostor v ruských a amerických dílech, typy jmen literárních postav a jejich ekvivalenty v překladech. Klíčovou metodou výzkumu je analýza onymického prostoru. Provedená analýza, definovaná dále v textu, umožnila rozdělení přeložených jmen na obvyklé a občasné ekvivalenty.

Introduction

Comparing books with some common features shows the approaches of translators from different countries with dissimilar translation traditions. It opens new perspectives for both literary onomastics and translation studies based on contrastive approach which exposes the differences of name patterns and their renderings.

Charactonyms, i. e. names suggesting some quality of a person or a unique object, are closely connected with the entire imaginary system in any literary work and have a substantive tradition of use as a specific stylistic device, which is quite relevant in translation. Normally, charactonyms are transcribed or transliterated but if their stems suggest additional information or create a system of their own in a literary work, their transcription or transliteration often deprives a foreign reader of a lot of nuances and vividness in description, comic effect or mere understanding. However, the original spelling of a name identifies a person at the international level, thus shows nationality, social status, in particular Du Chariot – a Frenchman or Urus-Kugush-Kildibaev – a Caucasian of high social status.

This article identifies the types of charactonyms in the translation of Russian and US fiction. These types will be studied on the basis of their relevance for the whole literary work. This article focuses on the types of such names in the novel *The Monikins* by F. J. Cooper written in 1835 and *The History of a Town* (hereafter *The History*) written in 1870 by the Russian writer M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin and the translations done by D. Gorfinkel and L. Khvostenko (*The Monikins*) and Susan Brownsberger (*The History*). The complex analysis of the characteristic names in the

literary works will contribute to comparative literary onomastics, disclosing the trends in rendering onymic spaces.

The choice of the material for this analysis has been made as the onymic space in both translations was rendered as a stylistic device of its own and the works have some commonalities, such as the period of having been written – the mid-1800s, the genre – both books represented the so-called lost manuscripts, showing the satire of government. Both works have similar groups of proper names: first and last names, nicknames, place names, allusive names.

1. Analyzing Onymic Space
1.1. Concept of Onymic Space and Stages of Onymic Space Analysis

This part of the article will outline the main features of the onymic space and introduce its main concepts. Onymic space is a set of proper names in a text or texts. Eliciting this space in a literary work additionally shows the necessity to render the meaning of the morphemes the names include. Applying this concept, scholars may analyze groups of texts by a writer or an epoch in terms of proper names. This approach allows making a quick but representative choice of charactonyms and tracing their transformations in several translations, which may become a basis for future more complete research of onymic space in different translations. In a more specific sense, the onymic space for this research *ad hoc* is regarded as a set of charactonyms relevant for being rendered in translation.

The further description will describe the onymic spaces in two literary works to find the requisites (common stems and motivators) of charactonyms and distinguish the equivalents of such names depending on the types of these names. The analysis of the books to be performed is the following:

1) Collecting names either all comprised in the work or limiting the scope to a certain type, i. e. anthroponyms, place names, names of specific objects and eliciting the stems incorporating the semantics reflecting the name-bearer's traits;

2) Comparing equivalents of names translated in the text and analyzing comments and footnotes relating to charactonyms;

3) Counting how many charactonyms have been rendered and the ways of their rendering;

4) Analyzing the general strategy: reproduction in the text, transliteration or transcription with comments (comments in the text or footnotes) or the translation of names.

The History represents a satirical description of the 19th century government in Russia. In the images of governors, allusions and details, readers recognize real people and facts referring to the events of that period. Such a *chronicle novel* style allowed the writer to speak of his time without provoking the censor's intervention. M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin skillfully takes advantage of hyperbole, so real facts acquire surrealistic features. The book is written in a picturesque, peculiar, and rather varied

language; it involves the lofty style of old-fashioned speech, folk expressions, proverbs, formal style of documents. The book totals 212 proper names including 81 fictitious characters, 15 fictitious place-names, 67 real persons and characters from other works, 29 actual place names not relating only to this book, 20 titles of literature and art, newspapers and documents, including 13 fictitious ones. Of 81 names of fictitious characters, 38 have translated common stems. In addition to the rendered names, the edition prepared by Ardis Publishers contains abundant *Background Notes* and *Glossary of Names and Terms*.[1]

The main way of rendering charactonyms in the translation of *The History* was the translation of common stems supplemented with suffixes, i. e. -ов Великанов – Gigantov, -кин Половинкин – Halfkin, -цкий Мерзицкий – Abominitsky. Common stem – a sign of a charactonym – is a part of name resembling in its form an *ordinary* word. The suffixes also serve the means of indication of nationality, that is that these are Russian last names. Some last names are identical in form with common nouns, e. g. Прыщ – Pimple (*прыщ* – '*pimple*'), Комар – Mosquiter (*комар* – '*mosquito*') and in this, they resemble nicknames, e. g. Стёпка Горластый – Styopka the Loudmouth, Пётра Долгий – Pyotra the Tall.

The Monikins is an allegorical satire on British and American politics. In brief, the plot of the work is as follows: the narrator, John Goldencalf, an orphan who has inherited wealth, meets four monkeys who can speak, and come from a land with customs far different than his. With Captain Noah Poke, Goldencalf undertakes a journey to the land of the Monikins, the island of Leaphigh and its adjoining land of Leaplow which are allusions to the United States and Great Britain.

The form of the names in *The Monikins* was influenced by the genre allegoric satire – embodiment of certain good and bad qualities. The names lack formants showing nationality of name bearers and more resemble nick-names than names. In the Russian translation, they were rendered by using the common stem: Downright – Прямодушный, Veracious – Правдивый, Meditation – Многодум, Equity – Справедливый. The reference section provides additional explanations as to specific forms of names and possible allusions. In all, *The Monikins* includes 219 proper names, with 97 anthroponyms, 115 place names and 4 book titles.

In *The Monikins*, the charactonyms were made up according to five patterns of common stems. If this common stem characterizes the bearer of the name, the stem becomes the significant (= meaningful) element of the name and this name becomes a charactonym. Thus the patterns in *The Monikins* are: 1) noun (Longevity, Pledge, Liturgy, Smut, Jaw, Meditation, Equity, Ekrub, Householder); 2) adjective (Firstborn,

[1] M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin, The History of a Town, Ann Arbor 1982, p. 193–214.

Timid, Spiteful, Downright, Veracious); 3) adjective + noun (Longbeard, Goldencalf, Silverpenny, Hightail, Whiterock); 4) phrase (Say and Do, People's Friend, Gilded Wriggle, Ready Quill, Plausible Shout); 5) noun + affix (Reasono, Chatterino, Flirtilla). Among characteristic place names, four patterns have been found: 1) verb + preposition/adverb (Leapup, Leapdown, Leapover, Leapthrough, Leaplong, Leapshort, Leapround, Leapunder, Leaplow, Leaphigh); 2) adjective + noun (Great Breeches, Wide-path), 3) noun (Aggregation, Bivouac); 4) numeral + noun (Tenthpig).

Besides the stem, the name in literature becomes characteristic due to a specific context, but not just because the stem is similar to a word. However, names may turn into characteristics only due to their expressive stems. Such names are frequent in *The History* (e. g. Прыщ – Pimple)*,* but *The Monikins* mostly involve the names having become charactonyms primarily in the context which, figuratively speaking, awakens the name and makes the association between the word alluding to appearance, habits or behavior mentioned in the name. Otherwise, the name would remain common, as lots of names are derived from ordinary words. To analyze such names linguistically some accurate tool is needed, and to be objective in performing this approach the concept of motivator may work here.

Motivator is the context determining a charactonym. This is an element of a text – a word, phrase, a passage, or even the whole book – characterizing a name bearer and is closely associated by means of synonyms, homonyms, the words of the same lexical field or puns with the proper name. Motivators are divided into explicit, implicit, and intersemantisizing.

As to expressive names, they do not require motivators to get relevant in translation. The last names of governors Угрюм-Бурчеев (Gloom-Grumblev) and Негодяев (Sonovabitchev) from *The History* no matter if they are supplied with motivators or not, are characteristic due to the nature of such names. If these names additionally have a motivator, they become expressive-and-characteristic. For example, the last name Угрюм-Бурчеев acquires expressiveness due to the stems *gloom* and *grumble* both with negative connotations. The motivator for this last name is the word *hangman* (*prokhvost* in the Russian text), e. g.:

Угрюм-Бурчеев, бывый прохвост. Разрушил старый город и построил другой на новом месте.[2]

Gloom-Grumblev, former regimental hangman. Destroyed the old town and built another on a new spot.[3]

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[2] М. Е. Салтыков-Щедрин, История одного города, Новосибирск 1976, p. 34.
[3] M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin, o. c. in note 1, p. 29.

The explicit motivator to the governor's last name Грустилов (*грусть* = '*sadness*') from Saltykov-Shchedrin's book is the word *меланхолия*. In the English translation, the motivator is the same – *melancholy* ('depression') and the last name is rendered Меланхолов, so the usual (dictionary) equivalent is used to render the common stem. See the context for the name below:

Грустилов, Эраст Андреевич, статский советник. Друг Карамзина. Отличался нежностью и чувствительностью сердца, любил пить чай в городской роще, и не мог без слез видеть, как токуют тетери. Оставил после себя несколько сочинений идиллического содержания и умер от меланхолии в 1825 году.[4]

Melancholov, Erast Andreevich, Councilor of State. Friend of the novelist Karamzin. Was notable for the gentleness and sensitivity of his soul, liked to drink tea in the town grove and could not but shed tears on seeing the mating of the black grouse. Left several works, idyllic in content, and died of melancholy in 1825.[5]

Implicit motivators are often found with central characters. In *The Monikins*, the name of the protagonist Goldencalf is made up of the collocation *golden calf* alluding to a Bible story where the idol symbolizes wealth and fortune. In the novel, the name is referred to the story indirectly, but the pursuit of gaining and accumulating fortune – and this is the main reason why Goldencalf launched the adventurous travel – shows that the name was selected on purpose.

The names with meaningful stems may influence each other. In this case, closely situated common stems make up a semantic field and serve as motivators to each other. The names restrict descriptive meanings, evoke the semantics of each other and consequently become relevant for translation even without any other context. Normally, these are different kinds of enumerations. The expression in this case is caused by the common stems of last names, nicknames or place-names associated by some idea or subject. The information about the bearers may be very scanty, but the semantic proximity of the stems shows the intentional choice of names and makes them characteristic. These are so-called intersemantisizing names, often found among place names. An example can be shown on the enumeration of invented states bearing as a stem the verb *to leap*: "Leapup and Leapdown; Leapover and Leapthrough; Leaplong and Leapshort; Leapround and Leapunder."[6]

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[4] М. Е. Салтыков-Щедрин, o. c. in note 2, p. 34.
[5] M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin, o. c. in note 1, p. 29.
[6] J. F. Cooper, The Monikins, London 1889, p. 256.

2.Onymic Space in Translation

2.1.Types of Equivalents

The most common equivalents used for rendering charactonyms are usual and occasional. The usual equivalent is an equivalent of a significant element taken from a bilingual dictionary: Peter Veracious in *The Monikins* was translated as Питер Правдивый (= truthful); the village Голодаевка – Faminovka in *The History*, e. g.:

But whereas Foolov was rich in everything and needed nothing but birchings and administrative measures, while other countries – namely, the village of Underfedovo, the village of Faminovka and so on – were utterly starving and extremely greedy besides, then naturally the balance of trade was always tipped in Foolov's favor.[7]

Usual equivalents tend to render international stems (Флиртилла, Резоно, Билл Тигр, Бивуак, etc.). The usual equivalent is normally used if a dictionary counterpart is expressed in one word, but not several ones or descriptively when an occasional equivalent is used. In the translations into English (*The History*) usual equivalents are found in particular among two place names, i. e. the villages of Голодаевка and Недоедово rendered as Faminovka and Underfedovo respectively.

The occasional equivalent is a translation with the help of a word not registered as a direct counterpart of the significant element but which reflects the same characteristics. The task gets more complicated as the translator declines the dictionary equivalent and has to find an equivalent which would keep both the meaning and stylistic coloring, e. g. the place names in *The Monikins*: Leapthrough – Перепрыгия, Leapunder – Подпрыгия.

2.2. Rendering Names Referring to Historical Figures and Veiled Charactonyms

Literary works often include the names referring to a person of historic significance or a literary character. These are the names given to the characters who by motivators acquire association with their famous namesake (eponym). Among these eponymous names we may mention Socrates Reasono from *The Monikins* where both given and last names refer to philosophy. It is of note for this case that both elements are borrowings and no substantial change of the form was required in the Russian translation (Сократ Резоно), e. g.:

Ordered, that the parties make the Journey of Trial together, under the charge of Socrates Reasono, Professor of Probabilities in the University of Leaphigh, LL.D., F. U. D. G. E., and of Mrs. Vigilance Lynx, licensed duenna.[8]

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[7] M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin, o. c. in note 1, p. 167.

[8] J. F. Cooper, o. c. in note 6, p. 164.

Постановлено, чтобы стороны совершили вместе испытательное путешествие под надзором Сократа Резоно, профессора догадок в Университете Высокопрыгии, и миссис Зоркой Рыси, дипломированной дуэньи.[9]

Ekrub is another implied allusion which reads Burke backwards, i. e. Eduard Burke (1729–1797), a British politician and historian, e. g.:

There are the works of the commentators, the books of constructions, and especially the writings of various foreign and perfectly disinterested statesmen – need I name Ekrub in particular![10]

Существуют труды комментаторов, популярные толкования и в особенности сочинения различных иностранных, совершенно незаинтересованных государственных деятелей – нужно ли мне называть имя Екрэба?[11]

Similar names have been found in *The History*…: Мерзицкий (Abominitsky in the English translation – from the word *abominable*) and Funich with the description of M. L. Magnitsky (1778–1855) and D. P. Runich (1778–1860), Russian reactionary school administrators who imposed religious restrictions on education under Alexander I in the 1820s. The name of Elder Dobromysl (Goodthought in the translation of S. Brownsberger) is an allusion to Elder Gostomysl of Novgorod, who lived in the 9th century and traditionally associated with the summoning of the Varangian princes to Russia.

Another feature of charactonyms has been traced in *The History*, i. e. veiled charactonyms. Such names are understood in the text as foreign but suggesting characteristics of the bearer.[12] In the source text, the names only identify characters and point to their nationality, but in the languages from which they have been borrowed, such onyms have common stems e. g. Greek, German, Italian anthroponymy in the English text. *The History* involves some last names of foreigners without expressing contextual characteristics. The last name of a governor of French origin who had been a rover was Дю-Шарио (chariot) can be translated from French as a *wagon* which characterizes his early life, but is left untouched. The last name of governor Беневоленский is translated from Latin as *bene volens* – wishing well which taking into account his description may be regarded as an allusion to Mikhail

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[9] Ф. Купер, Моникины, Москва 1953, p. 164.

[10] J. F. Cooper, o. c. in note 6, p. 350.

[11] Ф. Купер, o. c. in note 9, p. 341.

[12] See A. Kalashnikov, William Makepeace Thackeray and Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoyevsky: Name sensitive Authors. In: Homage to Great Novelists, Mutatis Mutandis vol. 4, № 2, 2011, p. 205–214. 2011. http://aprendeenlinea.udea.edu.co/revistas/index.php/mutatismutandis/article/view/10342/9953

Mikhailovich Speransky, a great Russian reformer of the 19th century and a close advisor to Russian tsars. These traces can be seen in the description given by M. Saltykov-Shchedrin:

Benevolensky, Feofilakt Irinarkhovich, Counsellor of State, a seminary friend of Speransky was wise and showed a penchant for lawmaking. Predicted open public trials and elected provincial governments. […]. Reintroduced the use of mustard, bay leaf, and olive oil as being healthful. Was the first to lay a tribute upon the liquor franchise, by which device he obtained three thousand rubles a year. In 1811, for pandering to Bonaparte, he was called to a court and exiled to imprisonment.[13]

However, the last name of another governor Ферапонтов was rendered into English as Servantov, though it is difficult to expose in the Russian text the meaning of the inner form derived from the Greek name Ferapont (Therapontos). The translator found the meaning from Old Greek *therapontos* – '*helper*', or '*servant*' and added the suffix *-ov*, typical of Russian last names. The motivator to the name Servantov is the former trade of the person, namely tonsorial artist, a servant of a sort:

Ферапонтов, Фотий Петрович, бригадир. Бывый брадобрей оного же герцога Курляндского.[14]

Servantov, Foty Petrovich, Brigadier. Former tonsorial artist to this same Duke of Courland.[15]

This translation touches upon the issue of rendering names with vague meanings, as Russian readers have no idea of the Greek form and its meaning. Thus the question arises if it is relevant to render the foreign stem which remains silent for Russian readers, or more generally should the translator render the elements of text which do not express anything for native speakers.

3. Results of Onymic Space Analysis

On aggregate, both works incorporate 431 proper names, with 219 names in *The Monikins* and 212 in *The History*. As to the charactonyms, *The Monikins* have 52 and *The History* 45. Both works mention 49 and 67 historical figures respectively.

The Monikins has 47 rendered charactonyms, with 38 in *The History*. In *The Monikins*, 34 were rendered by usual equivalents, with 28 in *The History*. Occasional equivalents were used in this book 11 times, i. e. less frequently than in *The History* with 23 such equivalents. In *The History* usual equivalents dominated and the approach looks more literary. Occasional equivalents were applied for complex names (Зоркая Рысь – Vigilance Lynx, Бодрый Крик – Plausible Shout). Transcription

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[13] M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin, o. c. in note 1, p. 28.
[14] М. Е. Салтыков-Щедрин, o. c. in note 2, p. 32.
[15] M. Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin, o. c. in note 1, p. 27.

without rendering the inner form has been used for five charactonyms: Литерджи, Смат, Спайтфул, Хаусхолдер, Пледж. Despite some lacunas caused by transcription the onymic system has been successfully rendered. The translators managed to render the names and keep the style of the book.

As for characteristic features of the onymic space, *The Monikins* include the names (Meditation, Peter Veracious) resembling those in morality plays, namely plays, in which good and bad human qualities were represented as people and native American name patterns (Vigilant Lynx, Plausible Shout). Both works have eponymous names (Noah, Natalya Kirillovna de Pompadour).

As a result, usual and occasional equivalents as two principal ways of rendering charactonyms may be distinguished:

Usual Russian equivalents in *The Monikins*: Первородный VI (Firstborn 6th), Dlinnoborodiy (Longbeard), Робкий II (Timid II), Долговечный (Longevity), Высокохвост (Hightail), Иуда Друг Нации (Judas People's Friend), Флиртилла (Flirtilla), Белый Утёс (Whiterock), Джон Справедливый (John Equity), Питер Правдивый (Peter Veracious), Сократ Резоно (Socrates Reasono), Джек-Кот (Jack Cat); Высокопрыгия (Leaphigh), Широкий Путь (Wide-path), Бивуак (Bivouac);

Usual English equivalents in *The History*: Butterchurnov (Маслобойников), Talknikov (Толковников), Infantov (Инфантов), Wartkin (Бородавкин), Pimple (Прыщ), Luckless (Бесчастый), Goodthought (Добромысл), Foolov (Глупов), Underfedovo (Недоедово), Faminovka (Голодаевка), the Soldiers District (Солдатская слобода), No-Good District (Негодница), Gentry Street (Дворянская улица).

Occasional Russian equivalents in *The Monikins*: Многодум (Meditation), Прямодушный (Downright), Зоркая Рысь (Vigilance Lynx), Золоченый Вьюн (Gilded Wriggle), Бодрый Крик (Plausible Shout), Чего Изволите (Say and Do), Балаболо (Chatterino), Единение (Aggregation), Недопрыгия (Leapthrough), Запрыгия (Leapunder), Великобрюхания (Great Breeches).

Occasional English equivalents in *The History*: Wolfhound (Брудастый), Duplecitov (Двоекуров), Melancholov (Грустилов), Gigantov (Великанов), Chubbov (Карапузов), Sonovabitchev (Негодяев), Gloom-Grumblev (Угрюм-Бурчеев), Weakgrain (Тряпичкин), Abominitsky (Мерзицкий), Whistle-Duck (Свистуха).

All the nick-names were translated: Том Пёс (Tom Dog), Билл Тигр (Bill Tiger), Сэм Боров (Sam Hog), Дик Конь (Dick Horse). The names of monarchs and noble people were translated: baron Длиннобородый (Baron Longbeard), король Робкий II (King Timid II*)*, король Первородный VI (Firstborn 6th), король Долговечный II (King the 2nd of Longevity).

Exposing the inner form of the significance of some last names in *The History* seems unnecessary, e. g. Ферапонтов — Servantov, where the Greek stem was

translated; or the translation of anthroponyms with common stems, though these stems do not give any characteristics: Младенцев — Infantov, Байбаков — Dormousov, translation of the stems that derive from obsolete words: Возгрявый — Snotpuss, Боголепов — Deiformov. However these do not affect the style of the book.

Conclusion

The article has shown the relevance and ways of applying onymic space. The value of this concept is that its presence shows the necessity to render characteristic names. This rendering is caused not by sporadic charactonyms but the system of the charactonyms, as otherwise, the system may be ruined ignoring certain characteristic traits incorporated in the names. The application of the onymic space analysis to *The Monikins* and *The History* compared in the article has shown that exposing some formalistic features, it identifies which names require translation. The relevance caused by the onymic space gets the translator to make certain transformations of proper names, that is of use for literary translators to decide on a strategy and justify it. The latter might be necessary when discussing the translation strategy with editors and publishers.

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