

*HANDLING VERBAL NOUNS IN RUSSIAN-ENGLISH TRANSLATION***N.A. Yasinetskaya**

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The author has identified and described possible ways for rendering verbal nouns and word clusters with them from Russian into English. The problem consists in the necessity of using lexical and grammatical translation transformations, in particular, such as omitting a lexical unit, replacing parts of speech, changing the syntactic functions of sentence members, compressing a split predicate, or using a contextual subject in translation. The choice of translation method depends on the syntactic function of the verbal noun in the original sentence. The author suggests the rules to choose a way for translating verbal nouns. The research based on the newspaper and analytical journalistic texts, alongside the worked out set of exercises, is a significant contribution to the practical course on translation from Russian into English as an integral part of the training of would-be translators.

Keywords: newspaper and publicistic styles, verbal noun, translation transformation, syntactic function, contextual subject, split predicate, change of the part of speech.

The Russian language has a tendency to substantivise actions and processes. This brings about a great many verbal nouns in positions of different parts of the sentence – subject, object, adverbial modifier, or attribute. In Russian, the newspaper and publicistic styles abound in verbal nouns, whereas English favours verbal nouns to a much lesser extent. Therefore, translation of a Russian utterance entails a number of lexical and syntactic changes.

One of such transformations is **change of the subject**. Russian newspaper and analytical journalistic texts abound in sentences with the subject expressed by a verbal noun denoting some process or action. A verbal noun in the function of the subject is often followed by another substantive denoting a subject or an object of the process/action: *Спад эпидемической волны группа в стране продолжается.*

The word combination «спад волны» consists of the verbal noun «спад» and the noun «волны»; the noun «волна» is the subject of the action. Actually, from this utterance we learn that «эпидемическая волна группа в стране

продолжает спадать». Translation of a sentence in which the subject is expressed by a verbal noun followed by another substantive – the subject of the action – requires similar transformations: the subject of the action is made the subject of the English sentence: *The epidemic wave of influenza in the country continues to recede*.

Consider another example: *Состоялись встречи предпринимателей с потенциальными партнерами*. The subject of the sentence is the verbal noun «*встречи*». If we analyse the word combination «*встречи предпринимателей*», we will see that the noun «*предприниматели*» is the subject of the action. Actually, from the utterance above we learn that «*предприниматели встретились с потенциальными партнерами*». The process of translation requires similar transformations within the syntactic structure of this sentence: the subject of the action becomes the subject of the English sentence, and the verbal noun itself turns into the predicate: *The industrialists met their potential partners*.

Substitution of a verbal noun in the function of the subject by a noun with a more concrete meaning is possible due to **compression of the split predicate**. Splitting of the predicate consists in the use of a verbal noun and a verb with a broad meaning instead of the corresponding verb with a concrete meaning (*происходит рост производительности труда – растет производительность труда, идет снижение цен – снижаются цены*) [1]. Under certain circumstances, particularly the ones described above, in English a split predicate turns into the verbal predicate expressed by a verb with a concrete meaning.

In the sentence *В парламенте состоялось обсуждение статей Госбюджета в третьем чтении* the subject is also expressed by a verbal noun, and the word «*статей*», the most closely connected with the latter, is the object of the action. From the utterance we understand that «*Парламент обсуждал статьи Госбюджета в третьем чтении*». In the course of translation, we make similar transformations of the syntactic structure. The verbal noun turns into a verb and becomes the predicate of the English sentence. The subject of the action

is restored from the text (from the same utterance or from a broader context) and placed in the position of the subject in the translation. Thus, the translation of the considered sentence will look as follows: *The Parliament **discussed** the articles of the State budget in their third reading.*

In the sentence ***Создание** арбитражной комиссии и **проведение** трудового арбитража предусмотрены трудовым законодательством*, both «арбитражная комиссия» and «трудовой арбитраж» are the objects of the action. The verbal nouns «создание» and «проведение» are formal elements: they simply deny existence of the mentioned objects and are optional for the English utterance. While translating verbal noun clusters the second component of which is an object of the sentence, the translator can sometimes **omit this verbal noun**: *Both an arbitration commission and labour arbitration are provided for by labour legislation.*

Consider one more example: ***Подписание** торгового соглашения будет способствовать расширению добрососедских отношений между двумя странами.* – *The trade agreement will contribute to good neighbourhood relations between the two countries.* In the above sentence, the verbal noun is redundant and can be omitted in translation: it is clear that not «the signing of the agreement» but «the agreement» itself is essential. Therefore, the indirect object becomes the subject of the sentence.

A similar transformation is made when the translator deals with verbal noun clusters the first component of which (the verbal noun) has no particular sense without the second component. These are word combinations like «предоставление помощи», «одержание победы», «нанесение поражения», «предоставление услуг», etc. The sense is contained in the object, and the verbal noun preceding it can be omitted: ***Нанесение** поражения противнику в этих соревнованиях открыло им путь к новым вершинам.* – *Defeat of the rivals in the competition opened for them the way to new heights.* Other semantically empty abstract nouns omitted in translation are, in particular, *появление, существование, получение, формирование, принятие, проведение, ведение,*

сохранение, подписание, избрание, внедрение, создание, провозглашение, введение, подписание, достижение.

Besides the function of the subject, Russian verbal nouns can function as secondary parts of the sentence – an object, attribute, or adverbial modifier. The corresponding English sentences also occasionally use verbal nouns in these functions, although it is much less typical of the English language than of Russian. In the same situations, English prefers non-finite forms of the verb – the infinitive, participle, gerund, and adjective, which results in **change of the part of speech**. The choice depends on the syntactic combinability of a word-form: *19 февраля правительственные органы Таиланда приняли решение о приостановлении расследования...* – *On February 19, the government of Thailand decided to stop the investigation...*; *В прошлом году на международной арене у страны был положительный имидж относительно обеспечения межнационального мира и избежания межэтнических конфликтов.* – *Last year the country confirmed its positive image at the international level by securing world peace and avoiding interethnic conflicts*; *Собеседники отметили важность продолжения процесса реформ.* – *The interlocutors emphasised the importance of further reforms.*

The names of processes that denote a qualitative or quantitative transfer, such as *увеличение, уменьшение, сокращение, улучшение*, etc. in different functions are mostly transformed into adjectives in the comparative degree or participles II: *Постановление предусматривает улучшение жилищных условий военнослужащих и их семей.* – *The act provides better housing conditions for servicemen and their families.*; *Повышение заработной платы положило конец забастовкам.* – *The increased wages put an end to the strikes.*

However, semantically “empty” verbal nouns in the functions of secondary parts of the sentence can also be omitted in the translation: *Ошибочность в принятии такого решения стала очевидной сразу.* – *The impropriety of the decision became evident at once.*

To sum up, while translating an utterance with a verbal noun construction, the translator should take the following steps [2, с. 19-20]:

- (1) identify the syntactic function of the verbal noun,
- (2) if it is the subject of the sentence, and the second element of the cluster is the subject of the action, transform this second element into the subject of the English sentence and the verbal noun – into the verbal or nominal predicate,
- (3) if the second element of the structure is the object of the action, restore the subject from the context and turn the verbal noun into the predicate,
- (4) if the sense is contained in the element preceded by a verbal noun, make the former the subject of the English sentence and omit the latter, and
- (5) if the verbal noun functions as an object, attribute, or adverbial modifier, transform it into the corresponding infinitive, gerund, participle II, or adjective.

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СПОСОБЫ ПЕРЕВОДА ОТГЛАГОЛЬНЫХ СУЩЕСТВИТЕЛЬНЫХ С РУССКОГО ЯЗЫКА НА АНГЛИЙСКИЙ

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Автором выявлены и описаны возможные способы передачи отглагольных существительных при переводе предложений с русского языка на английский. Проблема заключается в необходимости использования лексико-грамматических переводческих трансформаций, в частности, таких как опущение лексической единицы, замена частей речи, изменение синтаксических функций членов предложения, компрессия расщепленного сказуемого, использование контекстуального подлежащего в переводе. Выбор способа перевода зависит от синтаксической функции отглагольного существительного в исходном предложении. В работе рекомендуются правила выбора способа перевода отглагольных существительных. Исследование, которое проводилось на материале газетно-информационных и публицистических текстов, представляет собой весомый вклад в разработку практического курса письменного перевода с русского языка на английский как неотъемлемой части подготовки будущих переводчиков.

Ключевые слова: газетно-информационный и публицистический стили, отглагольное существительное, переводческая трансформация, синтаксическая функция, контекстуальное подлежащее, расщепленное сказуемое, замена части речи.