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COMMUNICATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE UTTERANCE AND TRANSFORMATIONS IN TRANSLATION

Every sentence has a formal grammatical structure and a potential communicative structure. A sentence introduced into a situation becomes an utterance, pursues a certain communicative aim, and discloses its communicative structure, i.e. the content structure that expresses semantic relations between sense groups of different communicative value. The clarification of the communicative structure of an utterance is important for the process of translation, especially concerning utterances with an inverted word order, which are common in Russian and much less common in English.

Both in Russian and in English, the communicative value increases to the end of the utterance – from less important information to more important, from the “old” knowledge to the “new” knowledge. Thus, the starting point of the utterance has a minimum communicative value; it is known as a **theme**. The thought gradually moves to its peak, or semantic centre, which is found at the end of the utterance; it is called a **rheme**. In the example «Росту рынка апартаментов | мешает | законодательная неопределенность», the word group «росту рынка апартаментов» is thematic, the words «законодательная неопределенность» form the rheme of the utterance, whereas the predicate «мешает» separates them from each other.

While a rhematic group always presents only new information, the theme of an utterance may carry old as well as new information. However, even if it presents some new information, its communicative value remains lower than that of the rheme. A rhematic group always contains a logical stress. The utterance in which the thematic group introduces some

new information is known as a **monorheme**. If the information presented in the theme is already known to the recipient, we deal with a **dirheme**. As monorhemes present only new information (both in rhematic and thematic groups), they are usually found at the beginning of a text or a paragraph. Dirhemes continue the thought and follow the former; they appear in the course of the story. The type of the utterance predetermines its translation.

Translation of a monorheme from Russian into English requires shifting the rhematic group of the Russian utterance onto the initial position: *Из небытия вернулись сотни имен советских солдат.* – ***Hundreds of names of Soviet soldiers have returned from oblivion.*** As we can see, the subject of the Russian utterance has changed its position in the translation but has preserved its syntactic function. To save the communicative structure of the dirheme, the translator should keep the rhematic group in its place but transform it into a sentence part whose final position in English is justified. Dirhemes with an inverted word order undergo a number of transformations, which mostly depend on the part of the sentence by which the thematic group is expressed.

A thematic adverbial modifier is transformed into the subject of the English utterance if its semantic relations allow it to play the role of the formal agent. If the thematic group of the dirheme is expressed by an adverbial modifier of time, the translator uses the English verbs *see, witness, bring about, signal, etc.*: *В последнее время появился ряд публикаций, посвященных этой проблеме.* – ***The recent years have seen a number of publications describing this problem.*** The subject in the TL utterance can also be expressed by some other word (group of words) introduced in the context: *Во время встречи обсуждались вопросы двухсторонних торговых отношений.* – ***The participants of the meeting discussed the problems of bilateral trade relations.*** The word “*participants*”, the agent of the action, is introduced into the context. Dirhemes with thematic groups expressed by adverbial modifiers of place, cause, purpose, or manner require similar transformations.

Translation transforms the theme as a direct object into the subject. Moreover, a change in the direction of the action causes a change of the voice: *Остальные средства вложат частные инвесторы.* – ***The rest of the required money will be contributed by private investors.*** However, sometimes the English language allows using the predicate in the active voice: *И энергетиков, и промышленников ожидают проблемы с энергопоставками.* – ***Both power engineering specialists and industrialists will face problems with energy supply.*** Such cases, however, make an exception to the rule. If a thematic group is expressed by an indirect object, the English utterance uses the active voice: *Условиями рассрочки предусмотрена оплата сроком до 12 месяцев.* – ***The hire-purchase contract allows payment within 12 months.*** A thematic group

expressed by a prepositional object is transformed into the subject of the English utterance. The predicate of the translation can be used in the passive as well as in the active voice: the choice depends on the semantic meaning of this prepositional object and the combinability of its components.

An initial adverbial modifier or an object can be transformed into the subject in dirhemes with the direct word order as well, but only in case the semantic meaning allows its governing the action: *В полицейских протоколах это квалифицируется как расхищение государственного имущества.* – *Militia records classify it as misappropriation of the national property.*

The thematic predicative of the Russian utterance is transformed into the English subject, and the rheme as the sentence subject undergoes opposite changes – it becomes a predicative in the English utterance: *Его благодарными читателями являются школьники и студенты, учителя и профессура.* – *His grateful readers are pupils and students, teachers and university professors.*

If the theme is the simple verbal predicate, the Russian rhematic subject retains its final position in the translation. This is possible due to the construction there is/are, the formal subject it, or a thematic subject (when the agent of the action is logically restored from the context): *Поражает его незаурядный литературный талант...* – *The readers wonder at his extraordinary literary skill...*

In conclusion, it should be noted that it is always important to preserve the communicative structure of the source language utterance and build its translation in accordance with the grammar rules of the target language. The subject of the English utterance is sometimes restored from the context. An essential fact is that transformations within the rhematic and thematic groups can entail a total change of the predicate. Every time, in case of transformations similar to the above-described, we need to find a verb that most accurately corresponds to the new subject [1, 8].

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