The Loan Translation Adaptation of the Character Names in the Novel Гарри Поттер и Философский Камень (Garri Potter i Filosofskij Kamen’) into the Russian Language

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Abstract—Loanwords are common in language processing. One example of language processing is translating foreign works to bring in new words that enter and enrich the recipient language (Baugh and Cable, 2002). Loanwords include proper nouns in translated novels, and the adaptation of proper nouns as character names in foreign literary works often occurs. This research investigates the adaptation of the character names in the novel Гарри Поттер и Философский Камень (Garri Potter i Filosofskij Kamen’), the Russian translation of the novel Harry Potter and The Philosopher’s Stone, originally written in English using the descriptive-analytical method by Sugiono (2008). The theory of loanword writing on the general description of loanwords by Haugen (1950) and the theory of loan translation (Haugen, 1950; Kridalaksana, 2008; and Arnold, 2012) were used in this research. Loan translation is a loanword that preserves the lexical or grammatical meaning of the source word but replaces the morphemes and phonemes. For the Russian language, the theory of Russian nouns (Vinogradov, 2001; Savko, 2004; and Kuznecova, 2009) describing Russian proper nouns (three genders, six cases, singular and plural nouns, animate and inanimate nouns) was also applied. The results show that the character names are adapted according to their characteristics by translating the original names from English to Russian in order to maintain the same impact for the readers, and the names are adapted using morphosyntax in the sentences written in Russian.

Keywords— loanwords, adaptation, loan translation, morphosyntax, Russian nouns

I. INTRODUCTION

Kridalaksana (in Kushartanti, Yuwono, and Lauder, 2009, p. 3) defines language as a system of sound symbols agreed to be used by members of communities to work together, communicate, and identify oneself. In communication involving a minimum of two language communities, loanwords are common in language processing to obtain new words previously non-existent in a language (Baugh and Cable, 2002, p. 3).

Language as a symbol of prestige can be shown through the use of language in the media, including the translation of foreign works. The spread of arts and knowledge through the means of language strengthens the prestige of the language. Therefore, translated literature may bring new vocabulary that enriches the recipient language (Baugh and Cable, 2002, p. 3).

The new vocabulary can be in the form of loanwords due to several factors such as the need for writing names or titles and the need to give specific meanings for specific purposes (Krysin dalam Zemskaya, 2000, p. 146-147). The new words or loanwords undergo adaptation in the recipient language.

Foreign works include literature, and one of the renowned literary works that has been translated into many languages, including the Russian language, is Harry Potter novels. These novels were originally written in English and written in several series, one of which is Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone, translated into Гарри Поттер и Философский Камень (Garri Potter i Filosofskij Kamen’) in the Russian language. Harry Potter is a fictional story written by an English author J.K. Rowling and was first published in 1997. One of the official publishers of these books, Scholastic, states that this novel has been translated into 68 languages, including the Russian language. The popularity of the novel led to its reprinting in 2016 by a Russian publisher, Mashaon, with Maria Spivak as the translator. The translation of this novel includes the translation of the character names.

Based on the aforementioned description, we are interested in investigating how the character names in the novel Гарри Поттер и Философский Камень (Garri Potter i Filosofskij
Kamen’) are adapted into the Russian language. The focus of this research is the character names because all the names are not in the Russian language. In this research, we focus on the names that are written differently from those in the source language, the English language.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

One way for a language to acquire new vocabulary is by borrowing words from other languages. Haugen (1950) terms these words loanwords. In the Linguistics Dictionary 4th Edition, Kridalaksana (2008) categorizes means of word borrowing into: 1) phonetic and phonemic borrowing, 2) morphosyntax borrowing, and 3) semantic borrowing.

The focus of this research is loan translation. This term, which in French is known as calque, was proposed by Haugen (1950). Loan translation is word or phrase borrowing which preserves the original lexical or grammatical meaning but changes the morphemes and phonemes (Kridalaksana, 2008, p. 194-195). According to Arnold (2012, p. 229), loan translation is loanword in the form of literal translation that preserves the morphological structure and word class. Haugen (1950, p. 214) illustrates loan translation using the word ‘skyscraper’ from the English language that is adapted into wolkenkratzer in German, gratte-ciel in French, and rascacielos in Spanish. In a literary work, the purpose of loan translation is to preserve the effect created by the loanwords so that the readers in the recipient language would experience the same feeling as if they were reading in the source language. One impression that occurs among readers of a literary work is impression of the characters. In this research, the names studied are character names from a literary work. Each character in a literary work is clearly distinct and unique. Characterization is the way an author reveals the character of each character. It is a depiction of a story with the purpose of providing clear descriptions to the readers (Nurgiyantoro, 1988, p. 165).

The most dominant word class in word borrowing from a foreign language is nouns, as compared to adjectives and verbs (Millar and Trask, 2015, p. 20). This is because loanwords always follow the nouns they represent and they are introduced simultaneously with the nouns (Hudson, 1969, p. 482). Therefore, a better understanding of nouns in the Russian language is fundamental.

Character names are nouns belonging to one word class in the Russian language. All words in the Russian language have grammatical forms and morphological characters which signify certain syntactic functions in several grammatical levels, known as части речи (časti reči) ‘word class’. Word class in the Russian language is commonly divided into independent word class or самостоятельные части речи (samostojatel’nye časti reči) and dependent word class or служебные части речи (služebnye časti reči). Independent word class is words that signify things, signs, characteristics, quantity or number, or those related to prepositions. Independent word class comprises nouns, adjectives, numbers, pronouns, verbs, and adverbs, while dependent word class comprises prepositions, connectors, and particles (Savko, 2004, p. 174).


III. METHODS

Descriptive-analytical method was used in this research. This was done by collecting naturally occurring data and processing and analyzing the data in order to describe the phenomenon (Sugiyono, 2008, p. 105). The data comprise five character names in the novel Гарри Поттер и Философский Камень (Garri Potter i Filosofskij Kamen’), whose spellings are different from those in the English version of the novel, Harry Potter and The Philosopher’s Stone. These names were then analyzed in terms of the etymology and the method of adaptation, and conclusion was drawn based on the analysis.

IV. RESULTS

The source of data in is the novel Гарри Поттер и Философский Камень (Garri Potter i Filosofskij Kamen’). This is a translated version of Harry Potter and The Philosopher’s Stone, which was translated into the Russian language by Maria Spivak and published by Machaon in 2016. The English version of the novel Harry Potter and The Philosopher’s Stone, which was published by Scholastic in 1997 was also used to see the writing of the names in the original version. The English language dictionaries used were Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary 3rd Edition (2008) and Collins English Dictionary digital version. The Russian language dictionary used was the one by Kusnevec (2000).

1. Клык (Klyk)

The name Клык (Klyk) comes from the name Fang. These two names are very different, but they actually have the same meaning, ‘fang’. In the Russian language, Клык (Klyk) means ‘fang’ or ‘a big tooth protruding from the mouth’ (Kuznecov,
As in the Russian language, ‘fang’ in the English language also means “a long, sharp tooth”, “a long, sharp tooth of an animal such as a dog or a snake” (Cambridge, 2008, p. 511). Клык (Klyk) or Fang is a dog with fangs, hence the name Клык (Klyk). This is shown in the following sentence:

“Гарри постучал. Внутри кто-то отчаянно защарапалась и гулко засвакал. Потом раздался голос Огрида, “Назад, Клык, назад.”” (p. 200)

(Garri postučal. Vnutri kto-to očtajano zagarapalsja i gulkog zagavkal. Potom razdal'sja golos Ogrida, “Nazad, Klyk, nazad”)

When Harry knocked, they heard a frantic scrabbling from inside and several booming barks. Then Hagrid’s voice rang out, saying, “Back, Fang—back.”

Fang → Клык (Klyk)

Example in a sentence:

“А это его кошачина, миссис Норрис, - её бы с Клыком познакомить.”” (p. 201)

(A éto ego košatinja, missis Norris, - eë by s Klykom poznamokomit’)

“And for that cat, Mrs. Norris, I’d like to introduce her to Fang [Klyk].”

In the sentence above, с Клыком (s Klykom) is an object answering the question with whom or с кем? (s kem)? It is a noun belonging to the proper, animate, singular noun category with instrumental case with a preposition с (s).

2. Злей (Zlej)

The name Злей (Zlej) comes from the name Snape. Злей (Zlej) is taken from a Russian word, злó (zlo) or the adjective form of злýй (zloj), which means “evil” or “cunning” (Kuznecova, 2000, p. 366). According to the website pottermore, the name Snape comes from the Old Norse language sneýra, which means ‘disgrace’. In the English language, the word ‘snape’ is similar to the word snap, meaning “to say something suddenly in an angry way” or “to suddenly be unable to control a strong feeling, especially anger” (Cambridge, 2008, p. 1366). This is in line with the character Злей (Zlej) or ‘snape’, which is depicted as an evil character, which is shown in the following sentence:

“Я в состоянии распознать проклятие, Огрид, я про это читала! Для проклятия нужно не прерывать зрительный контакт, а Злей даже не моргал, я видела!”” (p. 271)
In the sentence above, Старж (Sparz) is a subject which answers the question who or кто? (kto). It is a noun belonging to the proper, animate, feminine, nominative, singular noun category.

4. Држузг (Drjuzg)

The name Држузг (Drjuzg) comes from the name ‘Peeves’. ‘Peeve’ in the English language means “to annoy someone” (Cambridge, 2008, p. 1049). This is in line with the name Држузг (Drjuzg) in the Russian language that comes from the word Бруза (Brjuzga) (Kapkova, 2004, p. 77). This word means ‘annoying’, ‘ranting’ or ‘someone who likes to cause annoyance’ (Kuznecova, 2000, p. 99). Држузг (Drjuzg) is depicted as an annoying character who likes to annoy others. This can be seen from the following sentence:

Држузг показал ему язык и исчез, высыпав трости на голову Невилу. (p. 105)

(Drjuzg pokazal emu jazyk i ischez, vysypav protsi na golovu Nevillu.)

Peeves stuck out his tongue and vanished, dropping the walking sticks on Neville’s head.

Peeves → Држузг (Drjuzg)

Example in a sentence:

“С Држузгом не связывайтесь,” предостерег Перси, когда они пошли дальше. (p. 185)

(“S Drjuzgom ne svjazyvajtes’,” predostereg Persi, kogda oni posli dal’se.)

“You have to watch out for Peeves [Drjuzg],” said Percy, as they set off again.

In the above sentence, С Држузгом (S Drjuzgom) is an object answering the question with whom or c kem? (s kem?). It is a noun belonging to the proper, animate, masculine, instrumental with a preposition c (s), singular noun category.

5. Оливер Древ (Oliver Drev)

The name Оливер Древ (Oliver Drev) comes from the name Oliver Wood. The name Оливер (Oliver) is written as in the source language, Oliver, while the name Wood becomes Древ (Drev). Древ (Drev) in the Russian language comes from the word дерево (derevo) (Kuznecova, 2000, p. 283), meaning ‘tree’. This is in line with the meaning of Wood, which is ‘wood’ or “a hard substance which forms the branches or trunks of trees” (Cambridge, 2008, p. 1676) in the English language. The character Древ (Drev) is a captain of a witch game, Quidditch played using flying wooden broomsticks. This can be seen in the following sentence:

“Древ – капитан гриффиндорской команды,” пояснила профессор Макгонаголл. (p. 215)

(“Drev – kapitan griffindorskoy komandy,” pojasnila professor Makgonagoll.)

“Wood’s captain of the Gryffindor team,” Professor McGonagall explained.

Oliver Wood → Оливер Древ (Oliver Drev)

Example in a sentence:

Поттер, это Оливер Древ. Древ, я нашла вам Лючего. (p. 214)

(Potter, eto Oliver Drev. Drev, ja našla vam Lovčego.)

“Potter, this is Oliver Drev. Drev—I’ve found you a Seeker.”

In the above sentence, Оливер Древ (Oliver Drev) is a subject answering the question who or кто? (kto). It is a noun belonging to the proper, animate, masculine, nominative, singular noun category.

V. CONCLUSION

Word borrowing is a way of expanding vocabulary, and there are several ways to do so, one of which is through loan translation, which preserves the meaning of the loanwords in order to ensure a similar effect for the readers. Name adaptation is done by translating the names into words already existing in the Russian language, for example the name Древ (Drev) coming from the name Wood, which has the same meaning, ‘wood’. Another finding of this research is that the loanwords come into the recipient language and are adapted in accordance with its grammatical rules. This is shown in this research data, which undergo grammatical adaptation as can be seen from the morphosyntax of the sentences. From the five names in this research, it can also be concluded that name adaptation from foreign literary works follows morphosyntax rules in the Russian language. Those names also undergo declension according to the cases, for example С Држузгом (S Drjuzgom), which undergoes this change due to its instrumental case.

References


