

## PECULIARITIES OF TRANSLATING ROMANIAN REALIA WORDS FROM WEB-SITES

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*Fiecare popor își are cultura sa, aceasta îl marchează și îl face unic. Ceea ce este tipic pentru un popor, poate fi total nepotrivit pentru un alt popor, cu o cultură diferită. Așadar, este foarte important, ca în timp ce studiem o limbă ca un fenomen lingvistic, să atragem și o atenție deosebită elementelor culturale. Cercetarea efectuată se bazează pe 80 de exemple de culturile din geografie, cultură, istorie și societate, toate selectate de pe site-uri web care promovează cultura țării noastre.*

Language is very closely related to culture. It is the principal means whereby we conduct our social lives. So, language makes possible the growth and transmission of culture and the continuity of societies. Thus every culture possesses special culture denoting words, which may not be found in any other language, they are called realia or culture-bound words. Realia are culture-specific words or phrases which are often difficult, but not impossible to translate into target language. S. Florin defined the term in the following way: realia (from the Latin *realis*) are words and combinations of words denoting objects and concepts characteristic of the way of life, the cultural, social and historical development of one nation and alien to another [3, p.123]. Since they express local and/or historical color they have no exact equivalents in other languages. The problem of realia translation is important today and many linguists pay more attention to the problem of translatability of words denoting cultural implications [2, p.156].

Further we will present some examples of Romanian realia words, all selected from cultural web-sites. The main importance of the internet is that it has made information available in a quick and easy manner. Web-sites play an important role in promoting culture.

Moldova has a rich history, beautiful traditions and its culture makes it unique. Thus Romanian language possesses special culture denoting words, which may not be found in other languages. We have also mentioned the web-sites where we found the realia words and their translation.

According to R. Leppihalme there are four types of realia words: geographical, historical, social and cultural [1, p. 144].

Among the examples identified on web-sites there are: geographical realia which include geographical, meteorological and biological terms (*Codri, Plaiul Fagului, Pădurea Domnească, Carpați, Prutul de Jos, Iagorlâc, Cricova, Mileștii Mici, Nistru*).

The second group includes historical realia which refer to buildings, events and historical persons (*Uniunea Sovietică, mocan, cioban, Vodă, Împăratul Traian, hramul orașului, Ziua Națională a Vinului, Moși, beci, cetate, chilie*).

Social realia are words related to economy, social organizations, politics, social conditions and customs (*AIE, Partidul Liberal Democrat, mahala, răcitur, mititei, sărmale, mămăliga, mujdei, Făteasca Albă, colac, pască, cozonac, brânză, supă, slănină, legume murate, zeamă de găină, costițe, mititei, vertute, plăcinte, covrigi, compot, must, cvas, braga, vișinată, zmeurată, izvar, Cahor, zestre, catrință, opincă, brâu*).

Another category is represented by cultural realia which is constituted by words and phrases related to religion, education, media and culture (*cununie, cumetri, Paștele Blajinilor, Sfântul Nicolae, nași, a se mărita, a se însura, stărostie, spovedenie, Duminica Floriilor, Filarmonica Națională, Palatul Național, Sala cu Orgă, horă, Mărțișor, lăutari, clacă, a umblă cu uratul, Miorița*).

The classification of realia words helps the translator to find faster a way to render the realia word which belongs to a certain geographical place, or is a typical phenomenon of a material life or of social- historical peculiarities of some people, nation or country.

As we already mentioned above, translation is very closely related to culture. Texts cannot be analyzed outside their socio-cultural contexts. When a translator renders a text, he should take into account that the product of his translation is directed at people that come from a background which is different from that of the original target audience. Thus he/she should apply the necessary strategies and techniques for rendering them.

According to R. Leppihalme, these strategies are: direct transfer, calque, cultural adaptation, superordinate term, explicitation, addition, omission [1, p.145].

Direct transfer means to transfer a source text expression directly into the target text. The translator will use it when it proves impossible to find a suitable indigenous expression in the target language for translating the source text expression: *mărțișoare / martisor; casa mare / casa mare; zeamă de găină / zeama* (the chicken soup); *sărmale / sarmale* (forcemeat rolls in cabbage leaves); *vișinata / vishinata*.

Another strategy which can be used to render realia words is calque. A calque is a phrase borrowed from another language and translated literally word-for-word. It also can be named loan translation, and it refers to rendering each element of the source-text word or phrase into the target language literally: *Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt / Stefan the Great and Holy; Uniunea Sovietică / the Soviet Union; Palatul Național / National Palace; Ziua Natională a Vinului / National Day of Wine*.

Aside from the translation strategies mentioned above we have another possibility, when facing the translation of a text containing realia: their adaptation to the receiving culture. Cultural adaptation is a strategy that makes use of so-called functional equivalents. According to R. Leppihalme “the unfamiliar is replaced by the familiar”: *vertute, plăcinte / pies; nașii / godparents; colaci / cakes; cetate / castle; covrigi / pretzels*.

Another potential strategy is the replacement of realia with its *superordinate terms*, which means generalized translation. This strategy leads to fewer details: *compot / fruit drink; clacă / party; chilie / room; beci / earthen cellars; catrința / skirt*.

One of the most reliable strategies of translating realia is explicitation. It can be defined as a translation technique consisting of making explicit the information in the target text that is only implicit in the source text: *a umbla cu uratul / go door-to-door to offer warm greetings, wishing a Happy New Year; stărostie / when the spokesman of the bridegroom together with an elder person comes to the bride's home to woo her*.

Another strategy is addition which is mainly a quantitative label that indicates the presence in the target language of extra items: *Prut și Nistru / Prut and Nistru rivers; Cahor / Cahor wine; Codrii și Plaiul Fagului / reservations Codrii Moldovei and Plaiul Fagului; hora / a dance, called a "hora"*.

Omission is also a method used for rendering realia words from one language into another, which means leaving realia or parts of it out of the translation altogether. During our investigation we did not find any examples of omission. This proves that even if realia words are difficult to deal with there is always a way to render it and to bring the information to the audience.

In our paper, we have analyzed eighty examples of realia words all selected from different cultural web-sites. According to our analysis cultural adaptation is the strategy which predominates in translating realia words from web-sites, followed by direct transfer, explicitation, calque, addition and superordinate term. In most cases some types of translation strategies are combined and we observe more than one technique of translation used for a particular case. The most frequent being direct transfer used together with explicitation.

Any translator considers the translation of realia to be an interesting as well as difficult activity, because insufficient awareness of history, culture, traditions, social order, political life can result in inadequate translation which can fail to be perceived by the recipient or be perceived in a wrong way. Such a situation can occur because realia are words which convey the cultural identity of the native-speaking population.

### **References:**

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