

DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSLATING ARCHAISMS IN „ROMEO AND JULIET” (by W. SHAKESPEARE) FROM ENGLISH INTO ROMANIAN

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Scopul cercetării este perceperea dificultăților de traducere ale arhaismelor în piesa „Romeo și Julieta” din limba engleză în limba română. Obiectivele cercetării sunt: identificarea anumitor tehnici de traducere, folosite în traducerea arhaismelor din piesa lui William Shakespeare „Romeo și Julieta”; exemplificarea acestora prin compararea textului original al piesei, scris în limba engleză din secolul XVI cu varianta română a operei (traducerea fiind efectuată de Ștefan Octavian Iosif).

Every language has its own peculiarities. We cannot find two absolutely identical languages. The vocabulary and grammar systems vary from one language to another. That is why rendering certain linguistic constructions in another language may cause some difficulties.

On the one hand, a translator can consider himself to be a lucky person if he has managed to find the most suitable equivalent for this or that stylistic device. But, on the other hand, we should not neglect some categories of words which add stylistic colourfulness to the source text but cannot be rendered in the target language using the technique of equivalence. Here we mean such words as archaisms which denote a certain epoch.

We consider this topic to be a relevant one, because the archaic English language is present not only in literary masterpieces of the previous centuries – some specific features of the archaic language can be found nowadays in English legal texts. Moreover, the historical words have the same function as terms, because they do not have any equivalent in Modern English or in the target language (Romanian, in this case).

It is widely known that William Shakespeare’s plays abound in archaisms. That is why we have chosen for analysis his most famous play, „Romeo and Juliet”.

So, our research is focused on **two main objectives**:

a) to identify general peculiarities of translating archaisms from English into Romanian;

b) to exemplify it by comparing the original „Romeo and Juliet”, written in Old English, with Romanian translation of that play performed by Stefan Octavian Iosif.

Before speaking about an archaism, we must define clearly what an archaism is. It represents „a lexical item that once used to belong to the common and stylistically neutral vocabulary but was then ousted to its periphery where it is retained today almost exclusively as a means of stylistic and expressive nomination” [1, p.170].

The main difficulty faced by translators while rendering archaisms is that they cannot find an appropriate archaic target language equivalent to the linguistic unit. A translator should preserve the author's style, but at the same time he must be sure that his translation will be comprehensive enough for the target language readers.

One of the methods of rendering these words in another language is adaptation. We adapt the idea of the source language concept in order to make it understood by the target language audience. Another technique is commentary. We comment the source language word in order to explain it to the target language readers. Omission can also be used as a method of rendering an archaic word into another language.

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When choosing a suitable translation method, we must take into consideration the following factors:

- a) Textual presentation of the translation (the type of publication and its peculiarities):
 - components of the publication: foreword, afterword, commentary, glossary, illustrations;
 - compilation methods.
- b) Discursive presentation of the translation:
 - translator's aim: the function of the target text, the reader of the target text;
 - the dominant translation method.
- c) Linguistic presentation of the translation (the choice of an appropriate translation technique):

- transformations during the translation process:
 - changes at cultural level: transcription, other translation techniques: using a neologism, substitution, indirect translation, contextual translation;
 - changes at linguistic level: addition, deletion, substitution, replacement.
- factors that may cause difficulties during the translation process:
 - language and culture: grammar and culture, linguistic worldview, sociolinguistic aspect, etiquette;
 - language and psychology: associations, explicitness versus implicitness [2, p. 385].

We shall try to summarize the usage of the translation techniques. Omission has been used in most of the cases of translating archaisms (21 of 33 examples). We have come across the technique of equivalence in 9 cases. Generalization technique has been applied in 4 sequences. Antonymic translation has been used thrice by the translator. We have also noticed three sequences, where the translator has chosen the technique of concretization. The word-for-word translation technique has also been used three times. Paraphrase has been also applied thrice. Explanation has been chosen by the translator only once; so has been the technique of addition.

We can also remark the fact, that the technique of shortening (mostly in the case of archaic pronouns and verbs) has been used by the translator 14 times. The grammatical category has been changed about 7 times during the translation process. The verbal tense has been modified approximately 4 times. The translation technique of functional replacement has also been used 4 times. The English Passive Voice has been rendered into the Romanian Active Voice in 4 examples. On the other hand, the opposite transformation has been observed only in 2 cases.

As a conclusion, we would like to say that archaisms and historical words can be omitted, can be replaced in a translation, but their impact on the text cannot be ignored completely. Without these words, phrases and grammatical constructions the target reader will not be able to understand the emotional colouring and the stylistic value of the text.

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