

**THE PECULIARITIES OF TRANSLATING OCCASIONALISMS  
(ON THE MATERIAL OF THE NOVELS «THE TIME TRAVELER'S  
WIFE» BY AUDREY NIFFENEGGER AND «DIVERGENT»  
BY VERONICA ROTH)**

Науковий вісник Ужгородського університету. Серія: Філологія.  
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Цонинець М. Особливості перекладу okazіоналізмів (на матеріалі романів Одрі Ніффенеггера «Дружина мандрівника в часі» та Вероніки Рот «Дивергент»); 8 стор.; кількість бібліографічних джерел – 13; мова англійська.

**Анотація.** У статті розглядаються особливості перекладу okazіоналізмів на матеріалі романів Одрі Ніффенеггера «Дружина мандрівника у часі» та Вероніки Рот «Дивергент», проблема неперекладності авторських неологізмів та різні погляди дослідників на її вирішення. Для визначення способів перекладу okazіоналізмів була застосована комплексна методика дослідження матеріалу, що включає метод аналізу словникових дефініцій, компонентного та контекстного аналізу. Метою статті є висвітлення проблеми неперекладності okazіоналізмів та визначення способів їх перекладу на матеріалі англомовних художніх текстів. Новизна полягає у дослідженні okazіональних одиниць як індивідуально-авторських неологізмів, які не відповідають мовним правилам і стандартам, що і є причиною їх неперекладності. Автор утворює okazіональні одиниці з метою додавання більшої виразності, що дозволяє дати нову назву вже існуючому об'єкту, або навпаки, позначити невідому реальність авторського світу та дійсності. Основні завдання полягають у визначенні чинників, які впливають на способи перекладу okazіоналізмів і висвітленні тих, які використовуються найчастіше. Результати дослідження продемонстрували, що найбільша кількість okazіоналізмів була перекладена описовим способом та за допомогою калькування. Підводячи підсумки, можемо сказати, що під час перекладу okazіоналізмів надзвичайно важливо звернути увагу на тип контексту, в якому вживається слово, на типологічну категорію, до якої належить okazіоналізм, а також на форму словотворчої моделі, якої набуває авторський неологізм.

**Ключові слова:** okazіоналізм, неологізм, залежність від контексту, екстралінгвальні та інтралінгвальні чинники, способи перекладу, калькування, перекладацькі трансформації.

**Setting the problem.** The translation of occasionalisms is a major and topical issue related to some extent to the rapid scientific progress, which in turn leads to the development of literature, including the genre of science fiction. Different authors' innovations have always been of great interest to many researchers because of its anomaly and contradictive nature. For the theory of translation occasional words are considered as untranslatables. They are in one way or another the violation of grammatical, word-forming or lexical-semantic norms of the language.

**The analysis of the studies** of occasionalisms is based on the works of such scholars: M.M. Chetina, V.E. Uvarov, A.A. Horchkhanova, N.S. Molodcha, V.S. Vynogradov, E.A. Zemska, O.L. Klymenko, O.H. Lykov, V.V. Lopatin, J. Aitchison, J. Algeo, L. Bauer, O.V. Rebriy, E.A. Pulina.

**The aim of the article** is the analysis of the problem of translation methods of English occasional lexis into Ukrainian. To achieve the aim a complex research methodology of the material was used including the method of analysing dictionary definitions, componential analysis – to identify the component organization of innovations under investigation, as well as contextual and functional analysis – to study the functioning of occasionalisms in different discourses.

**The account of the basic material.** The translation of occasionalisms is one of the very topical problems that requires understanding the original word and

reproducing it in the target language. It should be noted that these words do not have their own counterparts in the target language. Rendering occasionalisms from one language into another, a translator should focus on the analysis of words and morphemes. This appeared to be an additional helpful tool in finding out the meaning of the nonce-words [5].

The point is that ways of occasional words' translation are determined by their form. In order to understand adequately the meaning of such new words a translator should be aware of the major English affixes and should divide words into appropriate constituents.

Not only form of the nonce-word but also context ensures perception and adequate understanding of occasional units. A. Horchkhanova states that context is a crucial thing for translating occasionalisms, which in isolation may be ambiguously interpreted. Accurate interpretation of meanings of nonce-words requires a detailed analysis of the type of context a nonce-word used in, the typological category a nonce-word referred to and the type of a word-building pattern the form of a nonce-word follows. She offers to apply the following translation methods: transliteration, transcription as well as various lexical-semantic transformations [5].

V.S. Vynogradov considers that there is no problem concerning the untranslatability of occasionalisms. He offers to translate neologisms (as we know

occasionalism is a kind of neologisms) using general rules. According to him, there are two ways of translating nonce-words. The first way includes searching for the equivalent neologism in a target language. The second way involves descriptive translation and transcribing [4].

The problem of transability of nonce-words depends rather on the competence of a translator to use lingual as well as extralingual knowledge.

The extralingual and intralingual factors have been analyzed by A. Rebriy as two crucial ones that determine emergence of occasional lexical elements in a language. The extralingual factors include: 1) objective nominative deficiency — the absence of any denotation in the target language; 2) subjective nominative deficiency — a particular meaning, form or construction is absent in the individual set of language means;

3) expressive and emotional deficiency — when a speaker considers the existing language means expressively and emotionally insufficient for the characteristics of a certain situation. The intralingual factors involve the law of language economy and language analogy [9].

E. Shapochkin and L. Butenko state that “difficulties of occasionalism translation are the result of the fact that they comprise up to several meanings or may not have corresponding constructions in a target-language. It is advised to translate occasionalisms by means of language constructions existing in a target-language or to invent one’s own new occasionalism and describe it in the footnotes. This process is highly creative...” [13].

While analyzing Audrey Niffenegger’s novel «The Time Travelers’ Wife» and Veronica Roth’s novel «Divergent» the following ways of translation of occasionalisms were identified:

- transcription and transliteration;
- loan-translation;
- descriptive translation
- calque

and also such translation transformations as:

- lexical transformations (concretization, generalization and modulation, antonymic translation);
- grammatical transformations.

Transcoding. Transcription is representation of the pronunciation of the foreign word with the target language letters. Transliteration is representation of the spelling of the foreign word with the target language letters [3].

For example:

Transcription: *Betty Crocker* – Бетті Крокер, *Liquid-Plumr* – Ліквід Плумр, *Lydia Lunch* – Лідія Ланч.

Transliteration: *Sherlock* – Шерлок, *Clark Kent* – Кларк Кент, *Divergent* – Дивергент, *Stiff* – Стіфф.

Loan-translation is formation of a new word or word combination according to the structure of source text. In loan-translation changing of component order or translation of one word and transcription of the other are possible [8].

E.g.:

*Lizardface* – ‘Ящеролиций’; *expert on Chrono-Impairment* – ‘фахівець з часових розладів’; *fingernailectomy* – ‘хірургічне видалення нігтів’; *CDP (Chrono-Displaced Person)* – ПЧЛ ‘Переміщена в часі людина’; *simulation serum* – ‘симуляційна сироватка’, *factionless* – ‘афракціонери’, *Artbabe* – ‘мисткиня’. The occasionalism *card-playing babysitter*; is formed, in order to convey information to the reader that nanny likes to play cards.

Descriptive translation is used for translation of each word combination as it is sometimes difficult to understand the meaning by giving equivalents [2].

E.g.:

*Our shaving-cream-and-tin-cancovered car* – ‘машина, вимашена кремом для гоління, за якою волочиться хвіст із консервних банок’; *Rice-A-Roni* – ‘рис, який не потрібно готувати, а просто ошпарити окропом’; *balloon-animal day* – ‘день фігурок тварин із повітряних кульок’; *Abnegation-oriented response* – ‘ознака Альтруїзму’, *Dauntless-born initiates* – ‘посвячені Безстрашні від народження’, *one-hundred-story* – ‘стоповерхова будівля’, *Abnegation-wired* – ‘схильний до Альтруїзму’, *sharp-but-attractive* – ‘пронизливий, але в той же час привабливий’.

Transformations which can help you to make the transition from source language units to the target language units are called translation transformations. The primary task of the translator in achieving adequacy is to be able to do a range of translation transformations in order to translate the information of the source text as precisely as possible, following the linguistic norms [1].

Lexical transformations appear as a result of semantic, referential and structural diversity in the language units of source and target texts. Therefore a translator makes an ample use of the translation means which do not change the content of a source text clipping but change some lexical forms of its expression. The lexical transformations include: concretization, generalization, modulation (semantic development), and antonymic translation [10].

Concretization of meaning is the selection of more concrete and specific translation equivalents or invariants which gives a more detailed description of the idea than does the word in a source text [6].

It should be noted that the vocabulary of the Ukrainian language is more specific than the corresponding lexical units of the English one [8].

For instance:

The word *machine* is not translated as «машина» or «механізм». It is provided with the ability to transfer people in time.

«You say some magic words? Climb in a *machine*?» [11]. – «Проговорюєте якусь заклинання? Залазите в *машину часу*?» [7].

By way of creating such a lexical unit as *pinkly*, the author wanted to tell the reader about the pink bell that appears in the sky at the sunset.

«The sun is setting very *pinkly* over the January snow in our backyard on this early Sunday evening...» [11]. – «Цього раннього недільного вечора сонце

вже заходить, являючи **рожеву заграву** на січневий сніг, що лежить у нашому дворі» [7].

Generalization is the opposite procedure to concretization. It is the use of a counterpart with a more general meaning [8].

For example:

Occasionalism *La-Z-Boy* is translated as крісло'. *La-Z-Boy* is the firm name that manufactures armchairs. This word was used to refer to the armchair of this mark.

«*I sit down on the broken old **La-Z-Boy** and Clare squeezes in beside me*» [11]. – «Сідаю на старе зламане **крісло**, і Клер втискається поруч зі мною» [7].

*Knobby-knuckled* consists of the adjective *knobby* with a meaning 'вузлуватий; шишкуватий; горбистий' and Participle II *knuckled* that means 'виступаючими кісточками'. The occasionalism in the novel is translated as *пальці*.

«*I can see my reflection from all angles: the gray fabric obscuring the shape of my back, my long neck, my **knobby-knuckled** hands, red with a blood blush*» [12]. – «Я бачу своє відображення з голови до ніг: сіру тканину, яка приховує силует моєї спини, мою довгу шию, почервонілі **пальці** моїх рук» (переклад наш. – М. Ц.).

Modulation is replacing a unit in a source text with a target language unit the meaning of which can be logically deduced from it. In such cases the substitute often has a cause-and-effect relationship with the original [8].

For example:

Occasionalism *almost-hole* – 'на яких ось-ось з'явиться дірка'.

Modulation is just another way of referring to the same object or an aspect of the equivalent situation. The relationship of the substitute with the original may be of different types: the substitute has often a cause-and-effect or effect-and-cause relationship with the original as it is shown in the scheme below.

Cause → Process → Effect.

Other types may be the following:

1. replacing the process by its cause;
2. replacing the process by its consequence;
3. replacing the cause by the process;
4. replacing the consequence by the process;
5. replacing the consequence by the cause;
6. replacing the cause by the consequence [8].

For example:

*About-to-whistle* is translated as: 'що от-от закипить'. The word *whistle* has the meaning 'свистіти', and 'свист' is the sound that a boiling kettle gives. To translate this occasionalism, the method of semantic development was used, namely, the process of replacing the process by its cause.

Antonymic translation is more commonly used when rendering negative constructions by affirmative ones. This can be explained by the stylistic use of negative constructions in English for purposes of expressiveness [8].

For instance:

*Oh-so-faint* – consists of the exclamation *oh*, the adverb *so* (дуже) and the adjective *faint* (слабкий, невиразний). Occasionalism in this case is used to indicate the sound frequency of noise. Here the translator used the antonymic translation method, where the adjective *faint* with the amplifying part *very* is translated 'ледь помітний'.

«*I hear a slight, **oh-so-faint** noise*» [11]. – «Чую легкий, **ледь помітний шум**» [7].

*Not-sore* – comprises negative particle *not* and an adjective *sore* (болісний, хворий). The whole word is translated as 'здоровий'.

«*Her elbow prods one of my sore muscles – I have more sore muscles than **not-sore** muscles, this morning – and I wince*» [12]. – «Цього ранку болючих м'язів у мене набагато більше, ніж здорових, і коли Христина штовхає мене ліктем в один із них – я морицуюся» (переклад наш. – М. Ц.).

Under grammatical transformations one should understand the transformation of the sentence structure in the translation process to reproduce the most accurate correspondence to the English sentence on the material of the Ukrainian language, while preserving the unity of the content and form. This will be a new unity that corresponds to the rules of the language of translation [8].

This category of grammatical transformations, comprises all types of transformations involving units of source language grammar [8].

N. Khayetska changed nouns into other parts of the language, while translating occasionalisms from English.

With the replacement of nouns, other parts of the language have to meet relatively less often than replacing verbs. Often nouns that do not have direct correspondence in the Ukrainian language are replaced.

Not all English nouns, created by using *-er / -or* suffixes, have relevant equivalents in the Ukrainian language.

For instance:

*Sunbather* – is an occasionalism with the suffix *-er*, denoting a person who sunbathes. In the translation of this lexical unit a translator changed the noun into the verb:

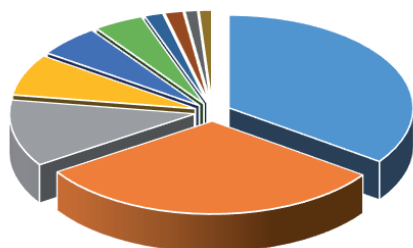
«*I lie down on my back with my arms stretched out like a **sunbather**, or a crucifixion*» [11]. – «Лягаю на спину, витягнувши руки, **наче загораю** чи розп'ятий» [7].

*Dauntless* – is an adjective in the English language, but in the novel it is substantivized into a noun «Безстрашні».

«*Only the **Dauntless** ride them*» [12]. – «Тільки **Безстрашні** їздять ними (користуються цим транспортом)» (переклад наш. – М. Ц.).

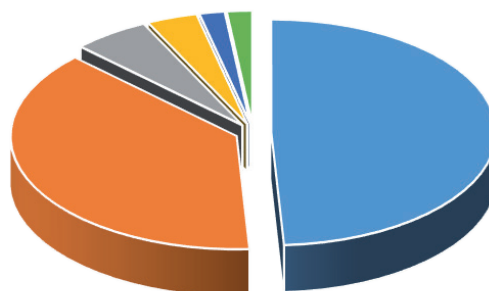
Quantitative characteristics of the ways of translation are shown in the following diagrams «Diagram 1», «Diagram 2».

**Diagram 1 Ways of occasionalism translation on the material of the novel «The Time Traveler's Wife» by A. Niffenegger**



- Loan translation 34,2%
- Descriptive translation 30,4%
- Transcription 11,4%
- Transliteration 7,1%
- Calque 5,4%
- Generalization 4,3%
- Antonymic translation 1,6%
- Modulation 1,6%

**Diagram 2 Ways of occasionalism translation on the material of the novel «Divergent» by V.Roth**



- Loan translation 49,1%
- Descriptive translation 38,2%
- Grammatical transformation 5,5%
- Generalization 3,6%
- Antonymic translation 1,8%

Diagram 1 shows that two ways of translating occasionalisms are defined as the most prevailing ones: loan-translation (34,2%) and descriptive translation (30,4%). Diagram 2 leads to nearly the same results: loan translation comprises 49,1% and descriptive translation represents (38,2%). The author of the novel «The Time Traveler's Wife» – A. Niffenegger used the same nonce-word only once in most cases. While the author of the novel «Divergent» – V. Roth had the tendency to use the same occasionalism several times.

**Conclusions.** It was shown that nonce-words or occasionalisms pose perhaps the greatest task for a competent translator. Such words do not correspond to conventional language norms and are determined by peculiar contextual conditions. While translating occa-

sional units it is important to take into consideration the structure of the nonce-word and the context it is used in.

After having analyzed the ways of translating occasionalisms on the material of the novels «Divergent» and «The Time Traveler's Wife», we can conclude that the greatest number of occasional words was translated by means of loan and descriptive translation. To put it another way we drew a conclusion that extralingual factors have induced a translator to use a descriptive method and an intralingual factor – to use a loan-translation. Description is used when there is no denotation in target language. Loan-translation is applied when new units are formed on the basis of already existing words.

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## THE PECULIARITIES OF TRANSLATING OCCASIONALISMS (ON THE MATERIAL OF THE NOVELS «THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE» BY AUDREY NIFFENEGGER AND «DIVERGENT» BY VERONICA ROTH)

**Abstract.** The article deals with the peculiarities of translating occasionalisms on the material of the novels «The Time Traveler's Wife» by Audrey Niffenegger and «Divergent» by Veronica Roth, the problem of untranslata-

bility of authors' neologisms as well as various scholars' views on its solution. The method of analysing dictionary definitions, componential and contextual analyses serve to identify ways of translating occasionalisms. The aim of the thesis is to highlight issue of untranslatability of occasionalisms as well as to determine ways their translation on the material of English literary texts. The topicality of the article is in the study of occasional units as the individual author's neologisms which do not correspond to language norms and standards, raising the issue of their untranslatability. It is noticed that occasionalisms are formed by the author to add greater expressiveness, allowing to give new name to a known object, or vice versa – mark an unknown reality of the author's and the real world. The main objective is to determine factors that influence ways of translating occasional units and to identify those which are used more frequently. The results of the article show that the greatest number of occasional words was translated by means of loan and descriptive translation. To sum up the chief point we may say that while translating occasionalisms, it is crucial to pay attention to the type of context a nonce-word is used in, the typological category a nonce-word related to and the kind of a word-building pattern the form of a nonce-word follows.

**Keywords:** occasionalism, nonce-word, neologism, context-dependence, extralingual and intralingual factors, ways of translation, loan-translation, translation transformations.

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**Марія Цонинець** – асистент кафедри прикладної лінгвістики Ужгородського національного університету, Ужгород, Україна; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0310-3147>

**Maria Tsonynets** – Assistant of the Applied Linguistics Department, Uzhhorod National University, Uzhhorod, Ukraine; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0310-3147>