

II. LINGUISTICS

II. ЛИНГВИСТИКА

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CLASSIFICATION OF TOPONYMIC SPACE UNITS WHEN RENDERING THEM INTO ENGLISH

Abstract: The article deals with the issue of classifying the toponymic space units when rendering them into English. This issue is especially relevant nowadays because of the arising necessity to make the urban environment comfortable, convenient and accessible for people who do not speak or read Russian. This necessity appeared due to the growing flow of tourists and different delegations arriving in our country, and these might be not only from the Western, but also from the Eastern countries. Though this article contains just the general guidelines for classifying the names of toponymic units when rendering them into English, it can be successfully extrapolated onto other languages, including oriental ones, because the general patterns of classification are the same. The paper also provides prompts for the translators of toponymic units into English concerning the types of translation techniques, which should be used in each particular case for rendering each group of the names of toponymic space units distinguished in the article.

Keywords: toponymic space units, urbanonyms, translation techniques, rendering toponyms from Russian into English.

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КЛАССИФИКАЦИЯ ЕДИНИЦ ТОПОНИМИЧЕСКОГО ПРОСТРАНСТВА ПРИ ПЕРЕДАЧЕ ИХ НА АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Аннотация: Статья посвящена вопросам классификации единиц топонимического пространства при передаче их на английский язык. Этот вопрос сегодня особенно актуален в силу возникшей необходимости сделать городскую среду удобной и доступной, для тех людей, которые не говорят и ни читают по-русски. Эта необходимость появилась в силу все возрастающего потока туристов и различного рода делегаций, прибывающих в нашу страну не только из стран Запада, но и из стран Востока. Хотя в этой статье содержатся всего лишь общие указания по классификации названий топонимических единиц при передаче их на английский язык, ее можно с успехом экстраполировать на другие языки, в том числе и языки стран Востока, потому что модели классифицирования одни и те же. В данной статье также содержатся определенные подсказки для тех людей, которые собираются заниматься переводом топонимических единиц на английский язык касательно различных типов переводческих приемов, которые им следует использовать в каждом конкретном случае при передаче каждой из выделенных в статье групп названий единиц топонимического пространства.

Ключевые слова: единицы топонимического пространства, урбанонимы, переводческие приемы, передача топонимов с русского на английский язык.

Toponyms are an integral part of the background knowledge of people living in different cultures: they reflect history and culture of nations, history of the territory having been settled and developed. This

part of vocabulary has long been of interest not only to philologists and linguists but also to historians, geographers, and ethnographers [1]. Nowadays the researchers interpret a term «toponym» as «a proper name both of any natural object on the Earth, and of a man-made object, the object being clearly fixed within a given area (be it a city, a village, a settled territory, a territory of the state etc.» [3].

Toponyms represent a vast layer of the vocabulary, and it is impossible either to study, or to describe it without first classifying it into certain groups [5]. However, there is still no clear-cut united classification of toponyms as per any criteria though different researchers offer different classifications [2; 3; 4;].

It is natural that toponyms should be rendered into different languages as there are a lot of different nations and cultures that do not understand the languages of one another. Moreover, the current trend for globalization makes people travel to different places more. So, people should feel free in the unfamiliar environment, and should find the ways to their destinations easily. This is where the translator is of great help.

However, the process of rendering in this case is rather complex one. The translator should not thoughtlessly opt only for such translation techniques as transliteration or transcription. Translation should not be applied in every case either, or we may end up seeing in the streets very funny signs, from the foreigner's point of view: e.g. «Shotgun Street» instead of «ulitsa Ruzheinaya».

So, what should a translator do before starting to render the toponymic units into any foreign language, not only English? First, the translator should know types and models these units are classified into, and second, ways and techniques to render them into a foreign language depending on their type. This paper will further discuss the issue of classifying the toponymic space units in accordance with their history, origin and «appearance», if we may say so.

To analyze the issue of classifying toponymic space units into different groups, we have chosen the toponymic units of Yekaterinburg. The issue of rendering toponymic space units is especially relevant for this city because in recent years it has turned into a place for holding major international events of different types: industrial fairs, sporting events, international meetings, etc. Thus, there are more and more foreigners coming to our people, and the flow of international tourist is also increasing. So, there emerged a necessity for rendering the toponymic space units in Ekaterinburg into English.

First and foremost, it should be decided, what types of toponymic units there are in Ekaterinburg. Several types of those may be distinguished:

1) Intracity toponymic units. These include the names of boulevards, roads, lanes, squares, avenues, streets, chausses, and other urban planning objects providing for transport and pedestrian connections between residential areas, industrial areas, public centres, city blocks, etc.

2) Geographical objects and natural monuments (rivers, ponds, parks, gardens, squares, rocks, mountains, etc.).

3) Transport infrastructure facilities (railway and bus stations, bus stop shelters, etc.).

4) Historical monuments (sculptures, architectural ensembles, and memorable places), including:

a) institutions of culture and cultural and historical heritage sites (museums, galleries, theatres, libraries, etc.);

b) religious buildings and structures (churches, cathedrals, chapels, etc.);

c) architectural facilities, monuments, and small architectural forms (memorials, full figure sculptures, portrait sculptures, etc.).

5) Other city infrastructure facilities (service businesses: hotels, catering establishments, trade enterprises, sport and educational institutions, social and administrative services and bodies).

All these types of toponymic units have names, and these names can be come across not only in the streets as indicators, but also on different information carriers, including books, guides, maps, software, etc. So, people can see these names not only with their own eyes, but also in printed and illustrated matter of different kinds.

The toponymic units may be named:

a) after different historical events. Such names usually contain a number therein, which is pronounced in Russian, and therefore, should be transliterated. The English numeral might also be retained.

b) after different historical figures, be in Russian or foreign ones. These may be political figures, heroes, famous people, etc. Such names usually have a stable historical equivalent in English, and the translator should search for it, also in language corpuses. The Russian case ending may be added to the obtained name, depending on the fact whether the pronunciation of the name is returned after doing so.

c) after plants and trees, professions, colours, gems, qualities, traits, etc. In this case transliteration should be used to render such kind of

names into English.

d) after groups of people. Here the transliteration should in some cases be combined with translation.

e) after other toponymic objects. Here the translator should be very attentive and use either transliteration and transcription, or a stable historical equivalent, if any.

f) The toponymic units may also bear names similar in sound. In this case the translator should be very attentive and retain the pronunciation of the name with the respective ending, or similar sounds.

The names of toponymic units may be translated, if the facility bearing it is very important for the urban infrastructure and plays a crucial role in the life of the city dwellers, that is it is a hospital, a cultural institution, a cultural heritage place, and the like. The names of enterprises and companies should be rendered in the same way as it is mentioned on their official websites because these are the names they are recognized by on the international arena.

The types both of the toponymic space unit and its name are crucial for determining the technique for rendering them into English. Of course, there are further peculiarities of rendering for each type of toponymic units, but this article presents only a general classification of such units, which might be of help to any translator of such.

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