A lime, a pear

Step 4: Application of the rule in practice

A traditional method of memorizing the rule. Students are given a range of tasks to exercise the new rule. The learners should not only fill in the grammar exercises in written from, but are also advised to be engaged in natural oral conversations using the new rules.

Summary

The method of «Guided Discovery» is associated with modern progressive learning methods. It combines the best features of the traditional methods of deductive and inductive learning, whilst closer aligned to the later. It helps the learners to learn the language faster, to develop analytical skills and the ability to think independently. This article considers this approach as the most effective at all levels of language learning.

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USAGE OF MACHINE TRANSLATION SYSTEMS

In order to grasp effectively the mechanism of MT systems, their methods of usage of dictionaries and grammar analysis together with the synthesis of structures in the output language one should translate in practice several texts (preferably different in functional styles and idea) using one of the MT systems. The usage of the PROMT XP MT system is more appropriate because it is one the latest versions of the PROMT family systems and it is also objectively the best of all available systems.

Let us take as an example the beginning of the Declaration of Independence of the USA. Here we will find the translation of the text written in official style of the late XVIII century made by the program PROMT XP. Here is the original text:

«When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...»

As we can see the text is rather difficult from the point of perception: sentences are extended and contain a lot of subordinate clauses and similar members of the sentence. From the other side despite the fact that this text is 225 years old there are no words or grammatical structures incomprehensible to a human knowing language at least at the level of the native speaker. There are no words in the text that became obsolete and therefore the only difficulties are a large number of sentences and relatively complicated structure. Let us take a look at the translation made by human translator:

«Когда в ходе человеческой истории для одного народа становится необходимым порвать политические узы, связывающие его с другим, и занять среди наций мира самостоятельное и равное положение, присвоенное ему в силу естественного права и законов Божественной Природы, — уважение к мнениям человечества требует декларации причин, вынуждающих его к отделению. Мы считаем самоочевидными следующие истины: что все люди созданы равными, что они наделены Создателем определенными неотъемлемыми правами, среди которых имеется право на жизнь, свободу и на стремление к счастью; что для обеспечения этих прав существуют среди людей правительства, осуществляющие свою власть с согласия тех, кем они управляют...».

Here is the translation made by the PROMT XP system:

«Когда в ходе человеческих событий, это становится необходимым для одного людей расторгнуть {распустить} политические полосы {оркестры}, которые соединили их с другим, и принимать среди полномочий земли, отдельная и равная станция, на которую законы характера {природы} и Бога характера {природы} дают право им, приличное уважение {отношение} к мнениям относительно человечества требует, чтобы они объявили причины, которые побуждают их к разделению. Мы считаем эти истины быть самоочевидными, что все мужчины созданы равными, что они обеспечены их создателем с некоторыми неотъемлемыми правами, которые среди них являются жизнью, свободой и преследованием счастья, что, чтобы обеспечить эти права, прави-

тельства назначены (установлены) среди мужчин, получая их справедливые полномочия от согласия управляемых...».

As we can see the machine translation system has a lot of problems with this text. One should not even mention the wrong choice of meanings of such words as "People", "bands", "station". Basing on this example of text translation one can see all the shortcomings of the mechanisms of the grammatical analysis and synthesis.

From the other side concerning the grammatical synthesis one cannot say much. For example the output variant «дают право им» does not correspond to the norms of the language from the point of view of the word order. In such a way we see again strong ties with the word order in the text in the output language at the synthesis of grammatical structures. Then such phrase as «мы считаем эти истины быть самоочевидными…» bears a strong resemblance to the speech of a foreigner that «studied» the Russian language with the phrase-book. At the same time this program was created by the Russian specialists. However one cannot accuse the linguists that took part in creating of the PROMT systems of having lack of knowledge of the Russian language grammar. The problem here is not in the grammatical structure synthesis but in the wrong understanding of the structure of the input language – i. e. in grammatical analysis [2].

It is obvious that the grammatical analysis is at the very primitive level. We have to admit that the system translates short sentences almost without any mistakes (but at the same time not all of them). Complex and classical examples of compound sentences are relatively easily translated by the system. Still if there appears a non-standard situation (for example if one subordinate clause is complicated by the other (or even simple sentence by the introductory or explanatory structure) and consequently splits) the program cannot find appropriate algorithm of the grammatical analysis – it forgets at once about syntax and starts simple word-by-word translation formally trying by means of inflexions to join at least two near words. This attempt to join grammatically nearby standing words makes the output variant of translation even more complicated [3].

Language is a living structure which cannot be subject to full algorithmization and therefore it is impossible to solve the problem of the machine translation by means of algorithms only. The machine does not understand the text it can only transform it by means of different rules and algorithms. It does not matter how many these rules will be. Without even general understanding of the input text there cannot be any connected and stable process of translation. The machine translation is possible at the level of simple sentences and within strictly defined subject only. Therefore it can be used only as a tool both at translation and at the process of learning to translate [1].

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MAIN POINTS OF THE SPEECH ACT THEORY

The basic emphasis of speech act theory is on what an utterer (U) means by his utterance (X) rather than what x means in a language (L). As H.P. Grice notes, «meaning is a kind of intending,» and the hearer's or reader's recognition that the speaker or writer means something by x is part of the meaning of x. In contrast to the assumptions of structuralism (a theory that privileges langue, the system, over parole, the speech act), speech act theory holds that the investigation of structure always presupposes something about meanings, language use, and extralinguistic functions.

As John Searle puts it, «All linguistic communication involves linguistic acts. The unit of linguistic communication is not, as has generally been supposed, the symbol, word, or sentence, or even the token of the symbol, word, or sentence, but rather the production or issuance of the symbol or word or sentence in the performance of a speech act.»

Speech act-is a minimal unit of the speech activity, it is studied by the speech act theory – study, that is the most important part of linguistic pragmatics.

One of the speech act theory theses says that a minimal unity of person's communication is not a sentence or utterance, but «the realization of certain type acts, such as statement, question, order, description, explanation, apology, gratitude, congratulation etc.»

The theory of speech acts is partly taxonomic and partly explanatory. It must systematically classify types of speech acts and the ways in which