

The difficulties of translating scientific articles into English on the example of the article on Sociology and Philosophy

International publications in high rating journals are very important factors for the work of modern scientists in Russia and scientists should be able to cope with all the difficulties when translating their articles into English. So, this theme should be of special interest for both Russian scientists who do not have or have little experience in translating scientific articles and for translators. My work is built on the difficulties that authors usually face when translating scientific articles from Russian into English. The translated article on Sociology and Philosophy is called *The Political Role of Intellectuals*. The article is planned to be publicized in the journal *Political Communication*, one of high rating international journals.

When translating the text non-native writers usually face such common difficulties as using the right grammar (verb tenses, prepositions, articles) [1, p. 221–223], finding the right terminology correspondences, using the necessary structures and vocabulary blocks for the main parts of the article (introduction or background), arguments and provements (aims, methods and results) and conclusion), punctuating the text (commas, colons, semicolons and dashes) and using quotations.

American academic writing experts advise to use Present tenses in introduction part and Past tenses in conclusion. These experts also find it a good idea to find some article (closely connected to the topic of your article) of a native speaker and to use it as a sample.

Many scientists and translators like such Internet resources like Google, Wikipedia, Multitran and some other useful sites but professional translators advise to analyze the source text and build a glossary before translating. They offer such term-extraction and concordance tools as WordSmith Tools, TextStat, n AntConc. The best choice is to use such terminology management tools as MultiTerm and TermStar. The examples of terminology correspondences from the translated article are: *разворачивающийся мировой кризис* – *unfolding world crisis*; *универсальное сознание* – *universal mind*; «*политика истины*» – “*the politics of truth*”; «*режим истины*» – “*the regime of truth*”; *взять на себя обязательства перед обществом* – *incur social liabilities*.

When you have chosen all the right terms you start with the introduction part. The aim of this part is to persuade the readers that the topic is worth discussing and writing about. So, Hartley and Sykes [2, p. 316] have suggested that papers for the social sciences (and any other empirical work) should contain: Introduction or Background; Aims; Method, Results and Conclusions. This structure is rarely used in practice. In scientific articles on exact sciences there is a strict structure and all the authors follow it. The most widely used verbs for vocabulary blocks in the introduction are: *compare, explore, investigate, clarify, describe, discuss, present, summarize*, etc.

The next part of the article contains blocks for arguments and provements. This part of the article is aimed to back up your thesis with evidence while taking counter-evidence into account, and to bring the paper to a conclusion. Information in this part can be presented in logical form or be more indirectly stated. Example 1 (logical): *In this journal, Lora Grant argues that the significance of has been largely overlooked. She bases her views on two fundamental ideas: ... and In this paper, I argue that she is right in some respects but wrong in others. She is right to identify the characteristics of ... and to try to relate it to.... However, she tends to overemphasize the impact that ... can have for....* Example 2 (indirect): *In this journal, Lora Grant writes about She describes it as a kind of She does not falsely idealize In fact, she is critical of Rather than detracting from the positive sense of her ..., however, her critical perspectives make her work more real and lead the reader to want to get to know*

One more difficulty for the authors of scientific texts is punctuation (commas, colons, semicolons, dashes and hyphens) and quotations. Punctuation and properly used quotations help the

article to be clearer and grammatically correct. Commas are usually used: to separate items in a list of three or more; before prepositional phrases, transitions and adverbs in the beginning of sentences; before *and* or *or*; after the phrases like *however*, *therefore*, *currently*, *as previously reported*; before a conjunction introducing an independent clause; to “bracket” parenthetical expressions in the middle of sentences [4, p. 8–12]. The examples: *The theory, which was created in 1988, is of a special interest. The conference was held from April 10, 1998 to 21 April 1998.*

Colons are mostly used when we give examples or describe the experiments to enumerate something. The examples: *James Wright, Jr.; Horace Fulsome, Ph.D.; presided February to July, 1972. The first (question): you are the outside observer save critical position in relation to...*

Not only semicolons but also full stops can be used in the following example: *The author rests on Gramsci's work and offers the following criteria: firstly, ... of a similar social group; secondly,....*

Dashes (or m-dashes) are used the same way as commas used to bracket parenthetical phrases but dashes add more interest and emphasis to the parenthetical phrase. The example: *Many of them – about half – are traditional intellectuals.*

Hyphens are used to join words together. The examples: *two-thirds, values-blessing, history-makers, century-old remoteness.*

When you want to use the quote to demonstrate or support your argument or the phrase is unusual and would have less impact if paraphrased the following advice will be helpful [3, p. 1]. If the quote is short you should enclose the writer's words in double «quotation marks» within your sentence. If the quote is long it should be separated from the body of the text and indented from the left-hand margin. Quotation marks are not used. If you need to insert your own words into the quote to ensure it makes grammatical sense in your work, write your words in [square brackets] to distinguish them from the author's. The examples: *Key causes of economic deprivation include low income or unemployment which are often the result of «poor qualification levels and lack of basic skills» (Thake and Saubach 1993, p. 18).*

Charles Dicken' novel Bleak House opens with the following description to set the scene for his story:

London, Michaelmas term lately over, and the Lord Chancellor sitting in Lincoln's Inn Hall. Implacable November weather. As much mud in the streets as if the water had but newly retired from the face of the earth, and it would not be wonderful to meet a Megalosaurus, forty feet long or so, waddling like an elephantine lizard up Holborn Hill (Dickens 1853, p. 1).

The last part of the article is conclusion. Its aim is to show the most important outcome of your work, restate the major results and help the reader to gain a sense of the logical flow and rhythm of the paper. The conclusion may contain some summary of the findings, but it should not merely reiterate the introductory or thesis paragraph. The examples of vocabulary blocks for the conclusion: *In reviewing the experiences of; issue was raised; in this regard; however; thus; thanks to; but again; that is; Not surprising; And lastly, it is clear that...*

In conclusion it should be noted that when translating scientific articles their authors not only face different linguistic challenges but also should use all the knowledge of theoretical principals in translation to convey the meaning in the original (Russian) text to make translation as appropriate as it is possible.

References

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