

Focus on Semantic Aspect of Translation of Bestial Verbal Lexicon from Russian into English

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***Abstract.** This article is an attempt to study one of the categories of verbal predicates ascribing referentially taxonomic class-name "animals, birds, insects," their inherent features of dynamic action and state. While the research we are to be guided by functional and onomasiological aspects of semantics. We call such verbal lexicon - bestial verbal lexicon. When comparing bestial verbal lexicon in the English and the Russian languages one can find several types of semantic relations between them. The aim of the translator in this case is to establish a correlation between these meanings and to present an adequate translation.*

***Keywords:** bestial verbal lexicon, onomasiological approach, translation technics, semantic relations.*

Modern linguistics gives priority to the functional approach to language as a whole and to its structural units levels in particular, that itself brings to the fore the separation and description of linguistic categories, designed to perform the communicative function of language. This approach is particularly relevant in the field of lexical-semantic level as lexical and grammatical units are means of activating for cognitive elements and their verbal expression in the speech act. As the notion "language in the communication process" best meets onomasiological approach while studying of its structural units and categories, then, based on the above, we consider it possible to identify and describe specific verbal communication group, where the verbal name is studied through its relation with objective reality.

This article is an attempt to study one of the categories of verbal predicates ascribing referentially taxonomic class-name "animals, birds, insects," their inherent features of dynamic action and state. While the research we are to be guided by functional and onomasiological aspects of semantics. We call such verbal lexicon, followed by R. S. Ganzha, bestial (from the Latin word bestia – "animal, beast") [1, p. 37].

It's obvious that one of the main difficulties of translation lies in the fact that the meaning of the whole text is not exhausted by the sum of meanings of its elements. The meaning of the text is made up by a number of elements, including denotative and connotative meanings of lexical units, the stylistic reference implied, syntactic meaning of sentences and utterances larger

than sentences, suprasegmental elements and lexico-semantic connections between words and phrases.

That is why simply knowledge of the two targeted languages is not enough for translation. Sufficient translation implies both linguistic and extralinguistic aspects with the text itself reflecting the cultural background of the author and the whole people speaking the language. This becomes extremely actual when we are speaking about Russian and English languages, as there is a great gap between two cultures of the peoples speaking these languages.

Every language is characterized by a specific structure of its lexico-grammatical fields and has its own lexical, morphological and syntactic systems. It may result in lack of coincidence between the means of expressing the same content in source language (SL) and target language (TL). In this regard let us turn to the kernel of translation process – word meaning. [4, p. 4-5]

In the four-volume "Dictionary of the Russian language", edited by A. P. Evgenieva, just over 1,000 of bestial verbs are recorded. Supplementing and upgrading the bestial verbal lexicon classification of R. S. Ganzha, let us distinguish main groups of bestial predicates on their semantic grounds:

1) Verbs denoting the animal life in general or areas of their habitation and spreading.

As an example, let's take Russian verbal pair «*водиться – вестись*», that means “to live in a certain areas of habitation, be found”.

Into the English language that lexical notions can be transferred as “*to be found, to be there*”: *there is fish in the river* or *fish is found in the river*.

2) The verbs of motion and state describing a specific way of movement and action, typical for animals:

a) Verbs of motion:

«*Порхать*» – *to flit, to flutter* (birds and butterflies), «*рысуть*» – *to trot* (horses, wolves, etc.).

When translating this group of verbs from Russian into English one should use the semantic variant, based on the terms of context, as it happens that one verb in the Russian language corresponds to a number of options in the English one.

It is rather difficult to translate those words of SL which are characterized by partial correspondence to the words of TL. Most of them are polysemantic. That is why it's necessary first of all to state which particular meaning of such a word is realized in the utterance. The most reliable indicator in this case is the context in which the word is used. [4, p. 10]

b) Verbs denoting specific animal states:

«Взмылиться» - *to cause to foam / lather* (about a horse), «нагулять» – *to fatten, to put on weight*.

In a case of such Russian verbs, they do not have a regular correspondence in English, as no one, even the most complete dictionary may reflect all the shades of meaning of the word. Thus in the translation into the English language one should use the tracing of Russian verb semantic component.

c) Verbs denoting death:

«Околоть,дохнуть,валиться» (to die in large amount) – *to die, to fall*.

Variability of this group of verbs is widely represented in the Russian language, thus English verbs have one equivalent “to die”. That is why while translating from English into Russian translator should base on the analysis of context implying the potential meanings inherent in the semantic structure of the text and create a contextual equivalent.

3) Verbs denoting the method of reproduction, the birth of cubs:

«Вывестись» - *to grow, to raise*; «вылупиться» - *to hatch*; «выклевываться» (about a bird) - *to peck out, to hatch*; «жеребиться» (about a horse) – *to foal*; «телиться» - *to calve, (about deer) to fawn, etc.*

Practically all the verbs from the group mentioned above have their direct English equivalents. Remarkable, these verbs do not have masculine as indicate only female actions.

4) Verbs denoting specific actions of animals:

«Артачиться» - *to jib, to be restive* (about a horse, do not obey, to resist the action of rider); «вылизаться» - *to lick its fur, to lick itself clean*; «грызться» - *to fight* (in the meaning of “to bite” about dogs), etc.

5) Verbs denoting sounds made by animals:

«Лаять,завкать» - *to bark*; «мяукать» - *to mew*; «мычать» - *to moo*; «ржать» - *to neigh*; «стрекотать» - *to chirr*; «жужжать» - *to buzz*; «квакать» - *to croak, etc.*

All the verbs from the group mentioned above have their direct English equivalents.

The meanings of the equivalents practically does not depend on the context, so to translate them one should merely look them up in a dictionary. The demand to consult dictionaries is essential. No guesswork is allowed in translation: a word should be either known or looked up.

6) Verbs denoting the physiological actions of animals, including meal:

«Клевать» - *to peck* (about birds); «брать» - *to bite* (about fish); «пастись» - *to graze* (about cattle), etc.

Among all the verbs in this research, one can distinguish verbs that reflect the dynamic characteristics of an entire animal kingdom or many species of animals: *to eat, to breathe, to fly,*

as well as of specific individuals and fauna: *to coo* (pigeons), *to croak* (frogs). It is quite natural that the collocation of first type verbs is much wider than of the second one.

If to speak about semantic relationships within the bestial verbal lexicon the widely representation of hyponymy should be mentioned: «*летать – порхать, планировать*» - to fly implies to flit, to flutter, to glide.

Despite the fact that verbs tend to create semantic relations more often than other parts of speech, especially synonyms and antonyms, the specified lexical meanings of bestial verbs hinder the formation of synonymous and antonymous relations. Particularly, antonyms are missed within bestial verbal lexicon.

Synonymous relations are poorly represented in the defined class of verbs. Particularly the group of verbs that denote a way of reproduction completely misses synonymous connection. Synonymy in the specified class of verbs is mainly represented:

a) stylistically:

«*лаять: тявкать* (coll.), *гавкать* (coll.), *гамкать* (coll.)», where:

«*лаять*» - *to bark* – widely used;

«*брехать*» - *to yelp* – is used dealing with texts about small towns, villages;

«*тявкать*» - *to wuff, to yap* — means low barking;

«*гавкать, гамкать*» means very loud barking.

b) for distinguishing of animal species:

«*лягаться, брыкаться, брыкать*», where:

«*лягаться*» - *to kick* – used when talking mainly of horses;

«*брыкаться, брыкать*» - *to kick* - used when talking about other animals. In the

English language this possesses no difference. [3, p. 181]

Thereby, the presence of a developed hyponymy, underdevelopment of synonymous relations and a complete lack of antonymous relations points to the fact that bestial verbs possess mainly one semantic notion and can be referred to the predicate-attributive words. This is the functional group of verbs from which the speaker understands the meaning of taxonomic class "animals, birds and insects."

Thus, when comparing bestial verbal lexicon in the English and the Russian languages one can find several types of semantic relations between them. The aim of the translator in this case is to establish a correlation between these meanings and to present an adequate translation.

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