

## Russian Bestial Verbal Lexicon: the Problem of Translation

**Резюме:** В докладе сделан упор на ономаσιологический подход к исследованию структурных единиц и категорий языка, что позволило выделить глагольные предикаты, приписывающие референтно-таксономическому классу имен «животные, птицы, насекомые» свойственные им динамичные признаки действия, процесса и состояния. В докладе выделены семантические классы бестиальных глаголов и описаны основные пути передачи русских бестиальных глаголов на английский язык.

**Ключевые слова:** бестиальные глаголы, семантическая категоризация, перевод.

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. Simply knowledge of the two targeted languages is not enough for translation.

Every language is characterized by a specific structure of its lexicogrammatical 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 [1, p. 4-5].

This essay 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. We call such verbal lexicon, followed by R. S. Ganzha, bestial (from the Latin word *bestia* – “animal, beast”) [2, p. 37].

In the four-volume "Dictionary of the Russian language", edited by A. P. Evgenieva, just over 1,000 of bestial verbs are recorded.

For example, verbs denoting the animal life in general or areas of their habitation and spreading. Like 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*.

The verbs of motion and state that describe a specific way of movement and action, typical for animals can be divided into:

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.

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:

«Околеть,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.

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.

Verbs denoting specific actions of animals like «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.

Verbs, denoting sounds made by animals, have their direct English equivalents: «лаять,завкать» - *to bark*; «мяукать» - *to mew*; «мычать» - *to moo*; «ржать» - *to neigh*; «стрекотать» - *to chirr*; «жужжать» - *to buzz*; «квакать» - *to croak, etc.*

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.

## References

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