

FEATURES OF TRANSLATING PAREMIOLOGICAL UNITS

*Uzakbaeva Shaxrizada**Master's student in the 2nd year specializing in "Comparative Linguistics, Linguistic Translation" at Berdakh Karakalpak State University.*

Abstract: The article examines the issues of translating paremiological units based on the material of the English and Russian languages. It analyzes aspects of selecting lexical equivalents, national features of the meaning of proverbs, and grammatical methods of their expression.

Keywords: cultural elements, moral and ethical principles, national mentality, concept, adapted version, lexical equivalent, metaphor, description, contrast, literal translation.

Proverbs and sayings represent an important element of culture, conveying the moral and ethical principles of a nation (5, p.97). However, their translation often poses challenges due to differences in semantics, style, historical context, and national mentality. Paremiological units related to the concepts of good and evil are particularly difficult to render in another language, as their meaning cannot always be conveyed literally.

In many cases, Russian and English proverbs, despite expressing similar concepts, differ in form and shades of meaning. For example, the Russian proverb "Добро должно быть с кулаками" has no exact equivalent in English. It describes a situation where a seemingly good intention is accompanied by strict measures or aggression. In English, a similar expression might be "A wolf in sheep's clothing," but this phrase emphasizes hypocrisy rather than the combination of goodness and strength.

In such cases, a translator must either use an adapted version, such as "Kindness with fists," or convey the meaning through explanation: "Good intentions, but harsh actions."

The Russian language often highlights a collectivist perception of goodness, whereas English emphasizes personal responsibility. For instance, the Russian proverb "Сделал добро – жди зла" reflects skepticism toward good deeds, while the popular English phrase "No good deed goes unpunished" conveys a similar idea but focuses on the inevitability of consequences rather than retribution for kindness with harm.

In such cases, an analogy can be used while considering cultural differences. For example, the Russian proverb "Сделал добро – жди зла" can be translated as "Not everyone appreciates kindness," which conveys the essence but softens the original's grim tone.

Some proverbs are difficult to translate literally due to differences in metaphorical expressions across languages. For instance, the Russian proverb "Не плюй в колодец – пригодится воды напиться" conveys the idea that one should not ruin relationships with others, as their help may be needed in the future. In English, a similar meaning is expressed through "Don't burn bridges," but this version lacks the water-related imagery present in the Russian original.

The best approach to translation is to use an analogous metaphor in the target language. However, if no such metaphor exists, the meaning can be conveyed through an expanded description, such as "Don't ruin what you may need in the future."

In Russian, proverbs are often built on contrast or repetition: "Добро помнится долго, а зло – еще дольше." In English, this style is less common, and a literal translation like "Good is remembered for a long time, but evil even longer" would sound unnatural. Instead, an adapted version such as "People remember good deeds, but never forget evil ones" would be more natural in English.

In such cases, the translator must adapt the structure, for example: "People remember good deeds, but never forget evil ones."

The best way to translate proverbs is to use direct lexical equivalents in the target language whenever possible. This approach ensures that both the meaning and the expressiveness of the original proverb are preserved. For example:

- Что посеешь, то и пожнёшь → What goes around, comes around
- Не рой другому яму – сам в неё попадёшь → He who digs a pit for others falls into it himself
- Доброе слово лечит, а худое калечит → A kind word heals, a harsh one hurts

Using established equivalents allows the translation to sound natural while maintaining the proverb's intended impact.

This method helps preserve the accuracy of meaning and the expressiveness of the original proverb.

If a direct equivalent does not exist, the meaning can be conveyed through an adapted expression. For example:

- С миру по нитке – голому рубаха → Every little helps
- Кто с мечом к нам придёт, тот от меча и погибнет → Live by the sword, die by the sword
- Не делай зла, не увидишь зла → Do no harm and no harm will come to you

In these cases, the core meaning remains the same, but the form of the proverb is adjusted to fit the norms of the English language.

If there is no direct lexical equivalent, the meaning can be conveyed through an explanation. For example:

- Доброго человека за добрые дела в воду сажают → Kind people are often punished for their kindness
- Добро без ума – слабо → Goodness without wisdom is weak

This method is used when a literal translation cannot fully convey the depth of meaning.

In some cases, it is important to retain not only the meaning but also the artistic imagery of the original proverb. For example:

- Добро с кулаками → Goodness with an iron hand
- Чужими руками жар загребать → To pull the chestnuts out of the fire with someone else's hands
- Тихая вода берега подмывает → Still waters run deep

In these examples, the metaphors remain understandable to English speakers, making the translation more natural.

Russian proverb	Translation	Equivalent English	in	Analysis and solution
Добро должно быть с кулаками	Goodness must have fists	(No exact equivalent)		It means that goodness needs strength for protection. It can be translated as "Kindness with fists" or "Good intentions, but harsh actions."

Based on the examples above, the final conclusions can be summarized in the following table:

Сделал добро – жди зла	Do good – expect evil	No good deed goes unpunished	The Russian proverb emphasizes distrust, while the English one highlights the inevitable consequences of good deeds. It can be adapted as "Not everyone appreciates kindness."
------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------------	--

Не плюй в колодец – пригодится воды напиться	Don't spit in the well – you may need water	Don't burn bridges	The English equivalent is close in meaning, but the water metaphor is missing. It can be explained as: "Don't ruin what you may need in the future."
Добро помнится долго, а зло – еще дольше	Good is remembered for a long time, but evil even longer	People remember good deeds, but never forget evil ones	A literal translation sounds unnatural, while adaptation makes the proverb more natural.
Что посеешь, то и пожнёшь	What you sow, you shall reap	What goes around, comes around	A full equivalent with the same meaning.
Не рой другому яму – сам в неё попадёшь	Don't dig a hole for another – you'll fall in yourself	He who digs a pit for others falls into it himself	A close equivalent that conveys the moral meaning.
Доброе слово лечит, а худое калечит	A kind word heals, a bad one cripples	A kind word heals, a harsh one hurts	The meaning is preserved, with minimal adaptation.
С миру по нитке – голому рубаха	A thread from everyone – a shirt for the naked	Every little helps	The meaning is preserved, but the form is adapted to English style.

Кто с мечом к нам придёт, тот от меча и погибнет	He who comes with a sword, dies by the sword	Live by the sword, die by the sword	A complete equivalent with the same meaning.
Не делай зла, не увидишь зла	Don't do evil, and you won't see evil	Do no harm and no harm will come to you	The meaning is preserved, but the phrasing is adapted.
Доброго человека за добрые дела в воду сажают	A good person is drowned for good deeds	(No exact equivalent)	Да, этот вариант хорошо передаёт суть пословицы, хоть и не сохраняет её образность. Если хочется добавить немного метафоричности, можно сказать: Good deeds are not always rewarded.
Добро без ума – слабо	Goodness without wisdom is weak	(No exact equivalent)	It can be adapted as Good intentions need wisdom.
Чужими руками жар загребать	Rake the coals with someone else's hands	To pull the chestnuts out of the fire with someone else's hands	Full equivalent.

The analysis of Russian and English proverbs related to the concepts of good and evil shows that, despite the similarity of ideas, their linguistic expression can differ significantly.

The main difficulties lie in the absence of complete lexical equivalents, differences in metaphorization and grammatical means of expression in both languages, as well as the varying interpretation of moral values associated with the mental characteristics of the two nations.

The ability to correctly interpret and translate proverbs not only facilitates language learning but also helps to gain a deeper understanding of the culture of the people who create these stable expressions.



References:

1. Baskin, A. V. (2008). Concepts and the Category of "Good" in the Russian Language. Moscow: Nauka.
2. Galperin, I. R. (1994). Theory of Translation. Moscow: Vysshaya Shkola.
3. Ivanova, O. A. (2005). Russian Proverbs as an Element of Collective Consciousness. Moscow: Litera.
4. Levkovich, E. V. (2004). Russian and English Phraseology. Moscow: Nauka.
5. Likhachev, D. S. (1982). Culture of the Ancient Russian People. Moscow: Nauka.