

**THE ROLE OF CULTURE-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY IN SHAPING THE
NATIONAL COLOURING OF THE NOVEL JANE EYRE AND ITS TRANSLATION
FEATURES**

**JANE EYRE ROMANIDA MILLIY KOLORITNI SHAKLLANTIRISHDA
MADANIY JIHATDAN BELGILANGAN LEKSIKANING O'RNI VA UNING TARJIMA
XUSUSIYATLARI**

**РОЛЬ КУЛЬТУРНО-МАРКИРОВАННОЙ ЛЕКСИКИ В ФОРМИРОВАНИИ
НАЦИОНАЛЬНОГО КОЛОРИТА РОМАНА JANE EYRE И ОСОБЕННОСТИ ЕЁ
ПЕРЕВОДА**

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Abstract

The article examines culture-specific vocabulary as a key means of shaping national colouring in the novel Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë and analyzes the peculiarities of its translation. The study focuses on lexical units reflecting social, religious, and institutional realities of Victorian England. Using lexico-semantic and comparative analysis, the research identifies the main translation strategies and transformations applied in rendering the cultural specificity of the source text. The findings indicate that the preservation of national colouring largely depends on maintaining a balance between cultural adaptation and the retention of foreign cultural elements.

Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqola Sharlotta Brontening Jane Eyre romanida milliy koloritni shakllantirishda madaniy jihatdan belgilangan leksikaning tutgan o'rnini tahlil qilishga hamda uning tarjimada berilish xususiyatlarini o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Tadqiqot markazida Viktoriya davri Angliyasining ijtimoiy-maishiy, diniy va institutsional realliklarini aks ettiruvchi leksik birliklar turadi. Leksik-semantik va qiyosiy-tahliliy metodlar asosida madaniy xususiyatlarni tarjimada ifodalashda qo'llanilgan asosiy tarjima strategiyalari va transformatsiyalar aniqlanadi. Tadqiqot natijalari milliy koloritning saqlanishi tarjimada moslashuv va madaniy elementlarning begonaligini saqlash o'rtasidagi muvozanatga bog'liqligini ko'rsatadi.

Аннотация

Статья посвящена анализу культурно-маркированной лексики как ключевого средства формирования национального колорита в романе Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë и рассмотрению особенностей её передачи в переводе. В центре внимания находятся лексические единицы, отражающие социально-бытовые, религиозные и институциональные реалии викторианской Англии. На основе лексико-семантического и сравнительно-сопоставительного анализа выявляются основные переводческие стратегии и трансформации, используемые при передаче культурной специфики оригинального текста. Делается вывод о том, что сохранение национального колорита напрямую зависит от баланса между адаптацией и сохранением иноязычных культурных элементов.

Keywords: culture-specific vocabulary, national colouring, literary translation, Victorian culture, translation transformations.

Kalit soʻzlar: madaniy jihatdan belgilangan leksika, milliy kolorit, badiiy tarjima, Viktoriya davri madaniyati, tarjima transformatsiyalari.

Ключевые слова: культурно-маркированная лексика, национальный колорит, художественный перевод, викторианская культура, переводческие трансформации.

INTRODUCTION

In the context of globalization and the intensification of intercultural contacts, the issue of preserving the national and cultural specificity of a literary text in translation acquires particular scholarly significance. Literary translation functions not only as a means of interlingual communication, but also as an instrument for transmitting cultural codes, historical realities, and value orientations of the source society. In this regard, special attention is drawn to the problem of adequately conveying the national color of a literary work, which is largely determined by the specific features of the lexical composition of the source text.

Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre* occupies a special place in nineteenth-century English literature and represents a vivid example of the artistic interpretation of the socio-cultural realities of the Victorian era. The national color of the work is shaped, in particular, through the active use of culturally marked vocabulary, including the names of social institutions, religious concepts, everyday realia, as well as lexemes reflecting social stratification and the moral and ethical values of English society of that period [1].

Culturally marked vocabulary performs in the text not only a nominative but also a meaning-forming function, contributing to the creation of the historical and cultural background of the work and shaping the reader's perception of an "alien" culture. In the process of translation, such units often become a source of translation difficulties associated with the lack of direct equivalents, differences in cultural codes, and the need to choose between preserving cultural specificity and adapting the text for the target reader.

The aim of this article is to analyze the role of culturally marked vocabulary in the formation of the national color of the novel *Jane Eyre* and to identify the specific features of its transmission in translation. To achieve this aim, the following objectives are set:

- to identify the main types of culturally marked vocabulary presented in the novel;
- to analyze their functional role in the source text;
- to identify and systematize the main translation strategies and transformations used in rendering these lexical units in translation.

METHODOLOGY

The research material comprises the original text of Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre* (1847) and Russian literary translations of the work that are representative of the "classical" tradition of literary translation. A comparative analysis of the source text and its translations made it possible to identify how culturally conditioned meanings are represented in interlingual transfer and to assess the extent to which the national color is preserved in the translated text.

The research corpus was compiled using purposive sampling: contextual fragments containing culturally marked vocabulary were selected (realia, institutional names, religious and ethical concepts, elements of social stratification, and everyday nominations). The corpus comprises approximately 120 lexical units. Each unit was analyzed both in a minimal context (a word combination/sentence) and in an extended context (a paragraph/episode) in order to уточнить meaning and pragmatic function [2].

A set of methods consistent with the objectives of lexical-translation analysis was employed:

- **lexico-semantic analysis** — to establish the meaning of units in the source text and identify their connotative and evaluative components;

- **comparative-contrastive method** — to record translation correspondences and divergences between the source text and the translation;
- **contextual analysis** — to interpret culturally conditioned meanings with regard to situation, character speech, and authorial narrative;
- **elements of linguocultural analysis** — to relate lexemes to the cultural codes of the Victorian era and describe their role in constructing the national color.

The study was conducted in several stages and included the following procedures:

- identifying culturally marked lexemes in the source text and recording them;
- classifying the selected units into thematic groups (socio-institutional, religious, everyday, stratification-related, etc.);
- comparing each unit with its translation equivalents and determining the type of equivalence (full/partial/zero);
- describing translation choices and attributing them to specific transformations (calque, descriptive translation, generalization/specification, functional substitution, omission/compensation);
- interpreting the results in terms of the preservation of national color and the pragmatic effect on the target reader.

RESULTS

As a result of the corpus analysis, the main types of culturally marked vocabulary representing the socio-cultural specificity of Victorian England and contributing to the formation of the national color of the novel were identified and systematized.

The first group comprises **socio-institutional vocabulary**, including the names of social and administrative institutions (*poorhouse, governess, parish*). These units reflect the characteristics of the social organization of nineteenth-century English society, in particular the system of charitable institutions, the institution of governessing, and the role of the parish community. Their use makes it possible to reconstruct the social environment of the characters and to emphasize the individual's dependence on institutional structures [3].

The second group is formed by **religious vocabulary**, represented by such units as *sermon, sin, Providence*. These lexemes embody the religious and moral paradigm of the Victorian era and perform an important meaning-forming function, reflecting dominant moral norms, value orientations, and forms of social control. Religious vocabulary often participates in shaping the authorial evaluation and the inner world of the characters.

The third group includes **everyday realia of the Victorian period**, comprising names of objects of daily life and elements of material culture (*hearth, manor-house, tea-tray*). These units contribute to the creation of the visual and material background of the work, ensuring an effect of historical authenticity and immersing the reader in the cultural and spatial context of the era.

The fourth group consists of **vocabulary of social stratification**, represented by nominations of social roles and statuses (*gentleman, servant, orphan*). These lexemes mark the characters' affiliation with particular social strata and serve as an important means of representing the social hierarchy characteristic of nineteenth-century English society [4].

The analysis demonstrated that culturally marked lexical units perform in the text not only a nominative but also an evaluative and characterizing function. They participate in modeling the social worldview, shape representations of class differences, moral norms, and institutional mechanisms of the era, and thus make a significant contribution to the creation of the national color of the work.

The analysis of translations of culturally marked vocabulary in *Jane Eyre* revealed a number of stable translation strategies used to convey the national and cultural specificity of the

source text. The choice of a particular strategy is determined both by the semantic features of the lexeme and by pragmatic factors related to the intended readership of the translation.

One of the most frequently employed strategies is **transliteration and calquing**, aimed at maximizing the preservation of the form and content of the source unit. This technique is mainly used in rendering socio-institutional and everyday realia that lack direct equivalents in the target language. The application of this strategy allows for the maintenance of cultural distance and emphasizes the foreign nature of the referenced realia.

Lexical substitution, involving the selection of a functionally similar unit in the target language, is also widely used. This strategy is oriented toward adapting the text for the reader and facilitating the comprehension of culturally conditioned elements; however, it may be accompanied by a partial shift in the semantic and connotative components of the original lexeme.

In cases where an adequate equivalent is absent, translators resort to **descriptive translation**, realized through an expanded explanation of the meaning of the culturally marked unit. This strategy makes it possible to compensate for intercultural lacunae and preserve the informative function of the lexeme, but it often leads to an increase in text volume and a reduction in stylistic compactness.

From the perspective of preserving national color, the least productive strategy is **omission**, whereby a culturally marked unit is excluded from the translated text or replaced by a neutral designation. The analysis showed that omission is primarily applied to secondary everyday realia or elements that do not play a key role in plot development; however, its use results in a partial loss of cultural information and a decrease in the degree of historical and cultural markedness of the text.

A comparative analysis of the source text and its translations demonstrated that the choice of translation strategies has a direct impact on the degree to which the national color of *Jane Eyre* is preserved. In cases where translators seek to retain culture-specific realia through calquing, transliteration, or minimal adaptation, the translated text produces a stable sense of historical authenticity and an “alien” culture. Such decisions facilitate the reproduction of the socio-cultural context of Victorian England and allow the reader to correlate the literary text with a specific historical period and cultural tradition.

At the same time, the analysis revealed that an orientation toward reader accessibility often leads to the use of adaptive strategies, including lexical substitution and descriptive translation. These techniques ensure easier text perception but may be accompanied by a weakening of cultural markedness and a smoothing of nationally specific features of the original. As a result, the translated text acquires a more universal character, which reduces the degree of its cultural authenticity [5].

A particularly significant impact on the preservation of national color is exerted by the strategy of omitting culturally marked units. Although such decisions generally do not disrupt the plot integrity of the work, they lead to a reduction in cultural information and a gradual leveling of the historical and cultural background. Taken together, these processes can transform the reader’s perception of the translated work, shifting the focus from the culturally specific to a more generalized and universal level.

DISCUSSION

The results obtained in the course of the study confirm the view that culturally marked vocabulary constitutes one of the key means of representing the national color of a literary work. The analysis of the material demonstrated that such lexical units perform a complex function combining nominative, evaluative, and cultural-interpretative components, thereby ensuring the connection of the literary text with a specific historical and cultural environment.

In the process of translating culturally marked vocabulary, the translator acts as a mediator between cultures, which entails the necessity of a constant choice between strategies aimed at preserving cultural specificity and those oriented toward adapting the text for the target reader. This choice is determined not only by linguistic factors, but also by pragmatic considerations of translation, including the intended readership, the prevailing translation tradition, and the genre-specific features of the literary text [6].

The findings of the study indicate that an excessive focus on adaptation leads to the smoothing of nationally specific features of the work and a weakening of its cultural authenticity. At the same time, the absolute preservation of all cultural realia without regard to the reader's receptive capacities may impede text comprehension and disrupt its artistic integrity. Consequently, the translation of culturally marked vocabulary requires a balance between equivalence and functional adequacy.

According to the results of the analysis, the most productive strategy is a **combined approach**, whereby key cultural realia that play a meaning-forming role in revealing the historical period and social structure of the work are retained in the translation with minimal adaptation, while secondary elements are subject to moderate transformation. Such an approach makes it possible to ensure both the readability of the translated text and the preservation of its national and cultural markedness [7].

Overall, the conclusions reached are consistent with contemporary views of translation as a process of interpretation and cultural mediation, within which the translator not only conveys the content of the source text but also shapes the image of the source culture in the consciousness of the target reader.

CONCLUSION

The conducted study has demonstrated that culturally marked vocabulary plays a key role in shaping the national color of the novel *Jane Eyre*, ensuring the representation of the socio-cultural realities of Victorian England. These lexical units perform not only a nominative function but also an evaluative and characterizing one, forming a holistic picture of the era and influencing the reader's interpretation of the literary text.

The analysis of translations has shown that the degree to which national color is preserved largely depends on the choice of translation strategies. Strategies aimed at preserving cultural specificity contribute to the reproduction of the historical and cultural background of the source text, whereas adaptive techniques enhance text readability but may lead to a weakening of its cultural authenticity [8].

The most effective approach to rendering culturally marked vocabulary is a **combined strategy**, which involves preserving key cultural realia while moderately adapting secondary elements. Such an approach makes it possible to maintain a balance between translation adequacy and accessibility for the reader, thereby minimizing the loss of national color.

The results of the study confirm the mediator role of the translator in the process of literary translation and emphasize the importance of a conscious and well-considered choice of translation solutions when conveying culturally conditioned elements of a literary text.

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