

AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
International Relations Department
Chair of Diplomatic Translation
Translation business in the field of international and legal relations
Practice of Simultaneous Interpretation
2021-2022 academic year spring semester

Lecture

Module 2: Interpretation Strategies

Lecture 10: Socially and Culturally Marked Expressions in Simultaneous Interpretation

Plan of the lecture

1. Introduction
2. Socially and Culturally Marked Expressions in SI
3. Conclusion
4. References

Aspects of the lecture

1. Linguacultural aspects of American political discourse
2. Differences in the Kazakh/Russian language based on socio-cultural features of historical periods
3. Translation problems of socially and culturally marked words in SI

Goals of the lecture

1. Identify stylistic features of American political discourse
2. Revise translation transformation
3. Identify effective ways to convey socially and culturally marked expression in SI from English into Kazakh/Russian

Basic concepts

Culturally and socially marked expressions, national character, cognitive image, concepts, frame, agonism, competition, aggressiveness, ideological character, theatricality and etc.

Regarding political discourse, linguists point out that there are two broad strands for the concept of politics: in the one hand politics is viewed as a struggle for power, between those who seek to assert and maintain their power and those who seek to resist it; on the other hand, politics is viewed as cooperation, as the practices and the institutions that a society has for resolving clashes of interest over money, influence and liberty.

There has been an increasing interest in the subject of political discourse, especially with the development of ideological and rhetorical criticism of political speeches. The development of technology and mass media made it possible for politicians to reach a large number of people, therefore exposing the public to a range of political messages in a variety of forms. However, research on the translation/interpreting of political texts remains scarce. In fact, Romagnuolo points out that “Currently, translation studies seems to be more concerned with the politics and the politicization of translation than with the translation of political texts” [1, 3].

As for the main features of political discourse, Russian linguist V.Z. Demyankov defines the following features: 1) valuation and aggressiveness; 2) the ability to persuade the intent of the addressee; 3) protecting the views of political discourse, i.e, argumentation [2, 32-43]. Sheigal predominates four different types of political discourse: 1) agonism, competition; 2) aggressiveness; 3) ideological character; 4) theatricality [3, 198].

Translating and interpreting political discourse is of particular interest, not only because of its importance, but also because of the problems it poses theoretically and practically for translators and interpreters, plus, of course, because of the global effects of this discourse. Newmark defines culture as “the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression” [4]. Thus culture is a system of habits, beliefs, morals, law, religion, customs, and behavior. In the relation between language and culture.

However cultural difficulties are more problematic in conveying pragmatic aspects. Newmark points out that “frequently where there is cultural focus, there is a translation problem due to the cultural ‘gap’ or ‘distance’ between the SL and TL” [4]. He further gives the following examples of the cultural objects that may cause difficulties for translators:

- Ecology: animals, plants, winds, mountains, etc;
- Material culture: food, clothes, houses and transport;
- Social culture: work and leisure;
- Political, religious, and artistic organizations, customs, concepts;
- Gestures and habits.

These objects illustrate the differences between cultures and challenge translators and interpreters to acquire a large amount of knowledge in such areas, in order to avoid failure in communication.

Amid classification offered by many scholars on political discourse, we have chosen to describe the general semantic-pragmatic categories of political discourse. These categories are as follows [4]: 1) personal image of the author; 2) host factor; 3) informational content; 4) intentions; 5)

evaluation; 6) tradition; 7) emotions/expressiveness; 8) modality; 9) textuality; 10) socio-cultural content; 11) form of communication; 12) means of communication.

Translation of socio-culturally marked words

In USA presidential election materials

Electoral college – коллегия выборщиков, электорлар алқасы, электоралды колледж

Black lives matter – Жизни черных важны, жизни чернокожих имеют значение, жизни темнокожих имеют значение, қара нәсілділердің өмірі маңызды

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (also known as the IUCN Red List or Red Data List) - Red List of Threatened Species from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable' – Қызыл кітапқа енген жануарлар - краснокнижные животные

Differences in the Kazakh language based on socio-cultural features of historical periods

The first stage - based on the legacy of Abay.

Abay was fond of reading Eastern classics, philosophers as Shamsi, Saadi, Fuzuli, Hafiz, Nawawi, Saikhali, Firdousi and we can observe many borrowed words from Persian, Arabic, Tatar languages.

"хауас", "хауас сәлим", "хауаси хамса заһири", "мутакәлимин", "мантиқ" and etc.

The second stage - Influence of Russian imperialism. Development of publicistic and social-political genre.

Молдалар – teachers

Империалистік соғыс – First world War

The third stage is identified by the usage of borrowed words from English language due to Internet, development of social networks and mass media, globalization. Due to the lacunae in the development of official language state media widely used literary Kazakh language.

Интернет желісі, халықаралық саммиттер, брифинг, комиссия, инфрақұрылым, инновация, парламенттік оппозиция, экономикалық дағдарыс, коронавирус пандемиясы, болггер және т.б.

Лиясша айтсақ, Абайша айтсақ – quoting and citing poets

би құдіретімен сахнаны табындырып, би падишасы, өнер тамашасы – wide range of colloquial expressions, saying, idioms

Оңтүстік Астана – paraphrased “Almaty”.

Follow-up questions

1. Identify historical period of language usage according to following examples:

Бостаншылық, азаттық – independence

Орыс интеллигенциясы, Россия үкімі, народоволец, самодержавиесі,

Демократияшыл, прогресшіл, право (крепостниктік право), Славянофилдер –
borrowed words

Мұсылманшылдық - islamization

В. Чернышевский «Қырғыздар туралы мақала» - word “Kazak” was replaced by
“Kirgiz” in order to differentiate “Kozak” and “Kazak”.

Жетісу, Сыр бойы қазақтары, Сырдария облысы – Names of regions

2. Analyse translation transformations of following expressions:

Swing states, battle states, battleground states - колеблющийся штаты, «поле битвы»,
«поля сражений», свинг-штаты, құбылып тұратын штаттар, қай кандидат жеңетіні
бұлыңғыр болып тұратын штаттар

Red states/blue states – штаты, которые управляются демократами/республиканцами

Home state – «домашний штат»

References

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3. Шейгал Е.И. Семиотика политического дискурса. - Волгоград: Перемена, 2000. - 368 с.
4. Newmark and Weaver W. The mathematical theory of communication. Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1949.- p 241