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СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИ МАРКИРОВАННЫЕ И ОЦЕНОЧНЫЕ СИНОНИМЫ СОВРЕМЕННОГО ФРАНЦУЗСКОГО ЯЗЫКА: СТРАТЕГИИ НЕЙТРАЛИЗАЦИИ И КОМПЕНСАЦИИ ПРИ ПЕРЕВОДЕ НА АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Аннотация. В статье анализируется передача стилистически маркированных и оценочных синонимов современного французского языка при переводе на английский язык. На основе компонентного и сопоставительного анализа выделены четыре стратегии: эквивалент того же регистра, нейтрализация, компенсация и модуляция. Нейтрализация преобладает в разговорных и сленговых рядах и ведёт к основной утрате прагматической информации, тогда как оценочные ряды, как правило, сохраняются. Предложены критерии выбора стратегии

Ключевые слова: синонимия, современный французский язык, регистр, оценочное значение, нейтрализация, компенсация, переводческая стратегия.

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REGISTER-MARKED AND EVALUATIVE SYNONYMS IN CONTEMPORARY FRENCH: STRATEGIES OF NEUTRALIZATION AND COMPENSATION IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Abstract. The article analyses how register-marked and evaluative synonyms of contemporary French are rendered in English translation. Using componential

and comparative analysis, the study identifies four strategies: register-matched equivalence, neutralization, compensation and modulation. Neutralization dominates in familiar and slang series and causes the main loss of pragmatic information, while evaluative series are usually preserved. Criteria for choosing a strategy are proposed.

Keywords: synonymy, contemporary French, register, evaluative meaning, neutralization, compensation, translation strategy.

INTRODUCTION

French has a highly differentiated system of synonyms, in which word choice signals style and attitude as well as meaning [1]. Today familiar variants such as boulot, bagnole and taf move from oral speech into media and fiction, and each of them is a choice the translator must account for.

Our earlier studies examined contextual synonymy and translation accuracy [2] and the relationship between lexical equivalence, pragmatic constraints and the translator's decisions [3]. This article focuses on two groups most vulnerable in translation: register-marked and evaluative synonyms. Such near-synonyms share propositional meaning but differ in expressive and stylistic features [4]; they form series around a neutral dominant [5], with synonymy holding only between particular senses [6]. The aim of the study is to identify the strategies used to render marked members of French synonym series in English.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material comprises synonym series selected from French explanatory and synonym dictionaries, with sentences from fiction, the press and online media and their English translations. Members of each series differed in register, intensity, evaluation or collocation. Componential analysis separated the shared core of each series from its distinguishing features. Comparative analysis identified the translation procedure applied, following J.-P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet [7]. Functional assessment evaluated whether the feature was preserved, drawing on P. Newmark's semantic and communicative translation [8] and M. Baker's typology of non-equivalence [9]. The analysis was carried out in

three stages. First, the neutral dominant of each synonym series was identified, and the stylistic, evaluative and intensity features of its other members were described using explanatory and synonym dictionaries of French. Second, each marked synonym was examined in its context to determine which of these features was active in the given sentence. Third, the English translation of the sentence was compared with the original to establish whether the feature had been preserved, weakened or lost, and which procedure had been used. This combination of methods made it possible to assess translation solutions not only by their lexical accuracy but also by their ability to convey the pragmatic information of the original.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis identified four strategies of rendering (Table 1).

Table 1. Marked French synonyms and their English renderings

French synonym series	Marked feature	Translation strategy	English rendering
mourir – décéder – crever	register	register-matched equivalent	die – pass away – croak
travail – boulot – taf	familiar / slang register	neutralization + compensation	work – job – gig
peur – frayeur – effroi – épouvante	intensity	modulation by a modifier	fear – sudden fright – sheer dread – terror
économe – avare	evaluation	evaluative equivalent	thrifty – stingy
entamer (un gâteau / des négociations)	collocation	contextual substitution	cut into – open

Register-matched equivalence is possible when the English series has a member of the same level: *Il a crevé comme un chien* – "He croaked like a dog". **Neutralization** replaces a marked synonym with the dominant and prevails in familiar and slang series: *J'ai trop de taf* – "I have too much work" loses the speaker's informal voice. **Compensation** restores the feature elsewhere in the

sentence or text. **Modulation** conveys intensity through a modifier: *Il fut saisi d'effroi* – "He was seized with sheer dread". Evaluative series (*économe – avare*) were usually preserved (*thrifty – stingy*).

Equivalence for a marked synonym is established at the level of communicative effect, in line with E. Nida's dynamic equivalence [10]. V. N. Komissarov's levels of equivalence explain the frequency of neutralization: equivalence is secured at the level of the message but lost at the level of the word, where stylistic information is carried [11]. This is acceptable in informative texts [8], but in fiction, where register defines the character, neutralization without compensation distorts the text. Following J. Levý's view of translation as a decision process [12], we propose three criteria: identify the marked feature; look for a target synonym with the same feature; if none exists, choose neutralization or compensation according to text function.

CONCLUSION

Marked French synonyms are rendered in English through register-matched equivalence, neutralization, compensation and modulation. Neutralization is the main source of pragmatic loss. The proposed criteria can be applied in translation teaching and in post-editing machine translation

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