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THE COMMUNICATIVE STRUCTURE OF A SENTENCE FOR TRANSLATING FROM UKRAINIAN INTO ENGLISH

Introduction and problem statement. The article emphasizes the importance of understanding the communicative structure of a sentence from the functional sentence perspective (FSP). Every sentence has a formal syntactic structure and a potential communicative structure. Within the formal syntactic

structure, grammarians distinguish between the main parts (subject and predicate) and the secondary parts (object, attribute, and adverbial modifier) set in a certain order. In Ukrainian, the word order is much more flexible than in English. Unlike English, Ukrainian texts abound in sentences with an inverted word order. Therefore, it is essential specify and illustrate that attention to the communicative structure of a sentence helps the translator to form the syntactic structure of the target-language sentence logically.

Previous research review. A sentence within a situation pursues a certain communicative aim and discloses its communicative structure. The communicative structure of a sentence is the content structure that expresses semantic relations between sense groups of various communicative values. The implications of this are specified by the theory of functional sentence perspective (FSP), with the underlying notions extensively researched and explained by many scholars, including Vilém Mathesius, František Daneš, Jan Firbas, Libuše Dušková, Aleš Svoboda, and Martin Adam in the traditions of the Prague School of Linguistics, and Michael Halliday.

The distinction between the subject and the topic was first suggested by Henri Weil, a German-born French classical philologist, in 1844, when he established the connection between information structure and word order. In his comparative study, which was translated into English and published in 1877 under the title *The Order of Words in the Ancient Languages Compared with That of the Modern Languages* (it originally appeared in French in 1844), Weil reached the conclusion that a sentence contains a point of departure (an initial notion) and a goal of discourse, and that the movement from the former to the latter corresponds to the movement of the mind.

Weil's ideas were revisited in the late 19th century by two German linguists, Georg von Gabelentz and Hermann Paul, who also wrote about word order and information structure as well as introduced the distinction of psychological subject and psychological predicate and their separation from the grammatical subject-predicate.

Vilém Mathesius, a Czech linguist and literary historian who represented an inextinguishable source of inspiration to other members of the Prague Linguistic Circle (which he officially co-founded in October 1926), viewed the sentence as a basic functional tool in the communication process and characterized its most important feature as the reaction of the speaker to some reality, thus laying emphasis on the dynamic nature of the concept of the dynamic semantic scales in the theory of functional sentence perspective (FSP). In his writings, a clear distinction was made between two constituting elements of a sentence, namely the 'theme' (that is, what is being talked about) and the 'rheme' (that is, what is being said about the theme) [2]. This division was postulated as a language universal of every meaningful sentence or utterance.

In the 1960s, Michael Halliday, a British-Australian linguist, was developing the internationally influential systemic functional linguistics model

for English [3] with regard to the 'theme' as the element that serves as the starting-point for the message and conveys what the clause (sentence or utterance) is going to be about.

Research focus and its practical implications. The theory of functional sentence perspective and its methods have been considered one of the prominent tools of research on information processing. The **purpose** of the article is to specify the practical implications of researching the communicative structure of a sentence from the functional sentence perspective for Ukrainian and English as a translation pair of languages. The **tasks**, therefore, are to determine, illustrate, and thus suggest the communicative structure-based strategies that simplify making sense to the recipient of a translation from Ukrainian into English.

Both in Ukrainian and English, the communicative value typically increases towards the end of the sentence – from less important information to more important, from the 'old' knowledge to the 'new' knowledge. Thus, the starting point of the sentence has a minimum communicative value; it is known as a theme. The thought gradually moves to its peak, or semantic center, which is found at the end of the sentence; it is called a rheme. The clarification of the communicative structure of a sentence is important for the process of translating, especially concerning sentences with an inverted word order [1]. Let us consider the following example: *Увазі любителів театру були представлені вистави Львівського театру драми та комедії.* The word group "*увазі любителів театру*" is thematic, the words "*вистави Львівського театру драми та комедії*" form the rheme of the sentence, whereas the predicate "*були представлені*" separates them from each other. Another example: *Основою економіки країни є промисловість.* The words "*основою економіки країни*" are the theme of the sentence, "*промисловість*" – the rheme, and the verb "*є*" indicates their boundaries.

While a rhematic group always presents only new information, the theme of a sentence may carry both old and new information. However, even if it presents some new information, its communicative value remains lower than that of the rheme. A rhematic group always contains a logical stress. The sentence in which the thematic group introduces some new information is known as a monorheme. If the information presented in the theme is already known to the recipient, we deal with a dirheme.

As monorhemes present only new information (both in thematic and rhematic groups), they are usually found at the beginning of a text or a paragraph. Dirhemes continue the thought and follow the former; they appear in the course of the story. For example: *Із забуття повернуто десятки імен українських письменників та майстрів перекладацької справи. Тепер із їхнім творчим доробком мають можливість познайомитися читачі в Україні й у всьому світі.* The first sentence of the above-cited begins the text. Thus, the information in both thematic and rhematic groups is new to the reader. The second sentence continues the thought of the first one: its thematic group is

predetermined by the rheme of the preceding sentence. Therefore, the theme of the second sentence carries 'old' information. While the first sentence is a monorheme, the second is a dirheme.

The type of the sentence predetermines its translation. Thus, translation of a monorheme from Ukrainian into English requires shifting the rhematic group of the Ukrainian sentence onto the initial position: *Із забуття повернуто* **десятки імен українських письменників та майстрів перекладацької справи**. – **Many great names of Ukrainian writers and masters of translation** *have returned from oblivion.* As we can see, the direct object of the Ukrainian impersonal sentence has changed its position in the translation and has become the subject of the English two-member personal sentence.

To preserve the communicative structure of the second sentence, its dirheme, the translator should keep the rhematic group in its place but transform it into a sentence part whose final position in English is justified: *Тепер із їхнім творчим доробком мають можливість познайомитися* **читачі в Україні й у всьому світі**. – *Now their works are accessible* **to Ukrainian readers and people all over the world**.

The rhematic subject group of the considered Ukrainian sentence is transformed into an object in the translation, and the regular position of the subject in the English sentence is occupied by the word group that plays the role of a prepositional object in the Ukrainian sentence. Another important fact is that the transformations within the rhematic and thematic groups have entailed a total change of the predicate. Any time when we make transformations similar to the above-described, we need to find a verb which most accurately corresponds to the new subject.

Dirhemes with an inverted word order undergo a number of transformations which mostly depend on the part of the sentence by which the thematic group is expressed.

A thematic adverbial modifier is transformed into the subject of the English sentence if its semantic relations allow it to play the role of the formal agent. If the thematic group of the dirheme is expressed by an adverbial modifier of time, the translator metaphorically uses the English verbs *see*, *witness*, *bring about*, *signal*, etc.: **За останній час** *вийшла низка публікацій, присвячених різним аспектам нашого життя*. – **The recent years** *have seen a number of publications describing different aspects of our life.*

The subject in the TL sentence can also be expressed by some other word (group of words) introduced in the context: **Під час зустрічі** *були обговорені питання двосторонніх торговельних відносин*. – **The participants of the meeting** *discussed the problems of bilateral trade relations.*

In the above-cited dirheme sentence, the word group "*під час зустрічі*" is thematic, and, according to the rules of translation, it must be transformed into the subject of the TL sentence. However, the word "*зустріч*" cannot play the role of the agent. Logically, not "*the meeting*" itself but "*the participants of the*

meeting" "*discussed the problems of bilateral trade relations*". Thus, the word "*participants*", the agent of the action, is introduced into the context.

In another example, the thematic group expressed by an adverbial modifier of place in Ukrainian is represented by the subject in the English sentence: *У Харківській області відроджена робота студентських та учнівських трудових загонів. У минулому році **в них** працювало близько 20 тис. студентів і учнів.* – *Kharkiv Oblast has restored students' labor groups. Last year, **they** included about 20 thousand students and pupils.*

Dirhemes with thematic groups expressed by adverbial modifiers of cause, purpose, or manner require similar transformations: *Для реклами товарів українського виробника тут буде влаштований великий виставковий центр.* – *Ukrainian goods will be promoted in a large exhibition center.*

In the sentence above, the adverbial modifier of purpose "*для реклами*" with the extending elements – the object "*товарів*" and the attribute "*українського виробника*" – should be transformed into the subject of the English sentence. As the adverbial modifier itself is too abstract and, thus, not desirable for the role of the formal agent, the word "*товари*" is transformed into the subject of the TL sentence. The adverbial modifier "*для реклами*" is transformed into the predicate. The rest of the thematic group forms an attribute before the subject within the theme of the TL sentence.

Translation transforms the theme as a direct object into the subject. Moreover, a change in the direction of the action causes a change of the voice. The examples given below illustrate the change of the voice from active to passive: *Решту необхідних коштів вкладуть приватні інвестори.* – *The rest of the required money will be contributed by private investors*; *І енергетиків, і промисловців очікують проблеми із енергопостачанням.* – *Both power engineering specialists and industrialists will be confronted with problems of energy supply.*

In the last sentence, though, the English language allows using the predicate in the active voice: *І енергетиків, і промисловців очікують проблеми із енергопостачанням.* – *Both power engineering specialists and industrialists will face problems with energy supply.*

If a thematic group is expressed by an indirect object, the English sentence uses the active voice: *Умовами розстрочки передбачається оплата терміном до 12 або 36 місяців.* – *The installment contract allows payment within 12 to 36 months.*

A thematic group expressed by a prepositional object is transformed into the subject of the English sentence. The predicate of the translation can be used in the passive or active voice: the choice depends on the semantic meaning of this prepositional object and the combinability of its components: *Якщо спочатку **проти реформи** висловилися 19% респондентів, то через два роки – вже 23%.* – *Initially, **the reform** was opposed by 19% of the*

respondents, but in two years, this came to 23%; **На це і була спрямована реструктуризація.** – **It** *was one of the goals of the restructuring.*

An initial adverbial modifier or an object can be transformed into the subject in dirhemes with the direct word order as well, but only in case the semantic meaning allows its governing the action: **У поліцейських протоколах** *це кваліфікується як розкрадання державного майна.* – **The police records** *classify it as misappropriation of the national property.*

The predicative of the Ukrainian sentence is transformed into the English subject, and the rheme as the sentence subject undergoes opposite changes – it becomes a predicative in the English sentence: **Його вдячними читачами є школярі й студенти, вчителі й академічна професура.** – **His grateful readers** *are pupils, students, teachers, and university professors.*

The Ukrainian rhematic subject keeps its final position in the translation. This is possible due to the construction *there is/are*, the formal subject *it*, or a thematic subject (when the agent of the action is logically restored from the context). The latter is illustrated by the first example: **Вражає** *непересічний літературний хист, досконале знання селянського побуту й людських характерів.* – **The readers** *admire his extraordinary literary talent as well as knowledge of peasants' life and human characters.*

Next, we have the construction **there are** introduced below: **Є багато прикладів співпраці регіональних управлінь у справах сім'ї та молоді з громадськими молодіжними організаціями.** – **There are** *many examples of cooperation between regional youth and family centers and public youth organizations.*

Ukrainian impersonal sentences can appear as both monorhemes and dirhemes. Their translation is regulated by the same rules as those of personal sentences: **Міністрами закордонних справ** *було дано високу оцінку співробітництву України та НАТО.* – **The foreign secretaries** *appreciated the cooperation between Ukraine and NATO.* Thus, the subject (or agent, performer) of the action is turned into the subject of the sentence.

The subject of the action is restored from the context: **Йшлося** *також про поглиблення зв'язків між польськими й українськими літераторами.* – **They (the participants of the conference)** *also discussed prospects for intensifying relations between Polish and Ukrainian writers and literary critics.*

Thus, there are several steps that a translator is supposed to make while handling sentences with an inverted word order: (1) states whether the sentence is a monorheme (if all information is new) or a dirheme, (2) if it is a monorheme, the translator shifts the subject group to the initial position in the English sentence, (3) if it is a dirheme, the boundaries of the theme are found and the syntactic function is recognized as an adverbial modifier, an object, or a predicative, (4) if the thematic group is an adverbial modifier, the translator transforms it into the subject of the English sentence, (5) if the theme is expressed by an object, the translator determines whether it is direct or indirect.

If the object is direct, the translator uses a passive form of the verb in the English sentence. If the object is indirect, it is made the subject and the active voice of the structure is preserved. A prepositional object transformed into the subject in the translation can be used with both active and passive verb forms, (6) if the thematic group functions as a predicative, the translator transforms it into the subject, (7) if the theme is a simple verbal predicate, the translator uses a thematic subject, which is restored from the context, the formal subject *it*, or the construction *there is/are*, (8) if the dirheme or the monorheme is an impersonal sentence, the translator uses the same rules as for personal sentences, and (9) if the dirheme is a sentence with the direct word order and it has an adverbial modifier or an object before the subject, the translator transforms this adverbial modifier or object into the subject in case its semantic meaning allows it to perform the role of a formal agent.

Conclusion. It is important to preserve the communicative structure of the source language (SL) sentence and build its translation in accordance with the grammar rules of the target language (TL). After establishing the subject-predicate cluster, the translation from Ukrainian into English goes smoothly and clarifies the communicative sense. Further research will be aimed at specifying other strategies that simplify making sense to the recipient of a translation.

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Анотація

Ясинецька О. А. Комунікативна структура речення для перекладу з української мови англійською

У статті наголошується, що увага до комунікативної структури речення допомагає перекладачеві логічно сформувати синтаксичну структури речення засобами цільової мови. Розглянуто особливості порядку слів для констатування теми (предмета повідомлення) та реалізації реми (інформації про предмет повідомлення) при перекладі з української мови англійською; підкреслено важливість урахування комунікативної структури та порядку розташування тема-рематичних складових. Відтворення комунікативної структури проаналізовано щодо перекладу односкладних, двоскладних та безособових речень; простежено особливості структурно-комунікативних змін при перекладі за наявності різного граматичного вираження теми. Проілюстровані

положення систематизовано як своєрідні рекомендації щодо перекладу відповідних структур.

Ключові слова: комунікативна структура, синтаксична структура, тема, рема, порядок слів, переклад.

Аннотация

Ясинецкая Е. А. Коммуникативная структура предложения для перевода с украинского языка на английский

Статья акцентирует важность внимания к коммуникативной структуре предложения, что помогает переводчику логично сформировать синтаксическую структуру предложения средствами целевого языка. Рассмотрены особенности порядка слов для констатации темы (предмета сообщения) и реализации ремы (информации о предмете сообщения) при переводе с украинского языка на английский; подчеркнута необходимость учёта коммуникативной структуры и порядка расположения тема-рематических составляющих. Воспроизведение коммуникативной структуры проанализировано при переводе односоставных, двусоставных и безличных предложений; рассмотрены особенности структурно-коммуникативных изменений при переводе при наличии разного грамматического выражения темы. Проиллюстрированные положения систематизированы как своеобразные рекомендации по переводу соответствующих структур.

Ключевые слова: коммуникативная структура, синтаксическая структура, тема, рема, порядок слов, перевод.

Summary

Yasynetska O. A. The communicative structure of a sentence for translating from Ukrainian into English

The article emphasizes the importance of attention to the communicative structure of a sentence, which helps the translator to form the syntactic structure of the target-language sentence logically. It accounts for the word order for stating the topic (the subject of the message) and implementing the rheme (information about the subject of the message) when translating from Ukrainian into English; it emphasizes the importance of regard to the communicative structure and the order of the theme-rheme components. The expression of the communicative structure is analyzed for translating personal one-member and two-member sentences as well as impersonal sentences; structural and communicative changes in translation are specified for different grammatical expressions of the topic. The illustrated provisions are systematized as recommendations for translating the specific structures.

Keywords: communicative structure, syntactic structure, theme, rheme, word order, translation.

Abstract

Yasynetska O. A. The communicative structure of a sentence for translating from Ukrainian into English

The article emphasizes the importance of understanding the communicative structure of a sentence from the functional sentence perspective (FSP). Every sentence has a formal syntactic structure and a potential communicative structure. Within the formal syntactic structure, grammarians distinguish between the main parts (subject and predicate) and the secondary parts (object, attribute, and adverbial modifier) set in a certain order. In Ukrainian, the word order is much more flexible than in English. Unlike English, Ukrainian texts abound in sentences with an inverted word order.

The article specifies and illustrates that attention to the communicative structure of a sentence helps the translator to form the syntactic structure of the target-language sentence logically. It accounts for the word order for stating the topic (the subject of the message) and implementing the rheme (information about the subject of the message) when translating from Ukrainian into English; it emphasizes the importance of regard to the communicative structure and the order of the theme-rheme components. The expression of the communicative structure is analyzed for translating personal one-member and two-member sentences as well as impersonal sentences; structural and communicative changes in translation are specified for different grammatical expressions of the topic. The illustrated provisions are systematized as recommendations for translating the specific structures.

Thus, there are several steps that a translator is supposed to make while handling sentences with an inverted word order: (1) states whether the sentence is a monorheme (if all information is new) or a dirheme, (2) if it is a monorheme, the translator shifts the subject group to the initial position in the English sentence, (3) if it is a dirheme, the boundaries of the theme are found and the syntactic function is recognized as an adverbial modifier, an object, or a predicative, (4) if the thematic group is an adverbial modifier, the translator transforms it into the subject of the English sentence, (5) if the theme is expressed by an object, the translator determines whether it is direct or indirect. If the object is direct, the translator uses a passive form of the verb in the English sentence. If the object is indirect, it is made the subject and the active voice of the structure is preserved. A prepositional object transformed into the subject in the translation can be used with both active and passive verb forms, (6) if the thematic group functions as a predicative, the translator transforms it into the subject, (7) if the theme is a simple verbal predicate, the translator uses a thematic subject, which is restored from the context, the formal subject *it*, or the construction *there is/are*, (8) if the dirheme or the monorheme is an impersonal sentence, the translator uses the same rules as for personal sentences, and (9) if the dirheme is a sentence with the direct word order and it has an adverbial modifier or an object before the subject, the translator transforms this adverbial modifier or object into the subject in case its semantic meaning allows it to perform the role of a formal agent.

It is important to preserve the communicative structure of the source language (SL) sentence and build its translation in accordance with the grammar rules of the target language (TL). After establishing the subject-predicate cluster, the translation from Ukrainian into English goes smoothly and clarifies the communicative sense. Further research will be aimed at specifying other strategies that simplify making sense to the recipient of a translation.

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