



TA'LIMDA TILLARNI O'QITISHNING MUAMMO VA YECHIMLARI
XALQARO ILMIY-AMALIY KONFERENSIYA

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**TA'LIMDA TILLARNI O'QITISHNING
MUAMMO VA YECHIMLARI
(ПРОБЛЕМЫ ЯЗЫКОВОГО ОБУЧЕНИЯ
И ПУТИ ИХ РЕШЕНИЯ/
PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE LEARNING
AND WAYS TO SOLVE THEM)**

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PRAGMATIC ASPECTS OF TRANSLATING INDIRECT REFERENCES IN MODERN OFFICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DISCOURSE

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Annotation: The article investigates the peculiarities of functioning and specific features of indirect references in official professional discourse. The key translation transformations that preserve the pragmatic potential of the original version are based on examples from authentic texts in English and Russian. Special focus is given to techniques of pragmatic hedging as a tool for the implementation of the communicative activity in intercultural communication.

Key words: professional discourse, indirect references, pragmatic mitigation, translational transformations, pragmatic equivalence

The contemporary linguistic paradigm can be characterised by an evident anthropocentric and pragmatic vector of the research where the language is considered not only as a static system, but also as a tool for modelling social and professional discourse [Pocheptsov, 2001]. One of the most representative and complex types of communication for linguopragmatic analysis is the official-administrative discourse of international organizations. Being a space of connection for many national, legal and cultural codes, this discourse imposes severe restrictions on the choice of linguistic means.

Maintaining a conflict-free dialogue as well as achieving consensus and adhering to the principles of communicative tact, is a crucial task of the collective addressee. The given trend initiates the usage of indirect references in the texts of the documents, which are quite popular. By indirect references it is possible to understand secondary signs and descriptive phrases which are intentionally used to hide and blur the real meaning as well as for pragmatic mitigation of social dispute and potential conflict-generating phenomena. Translation strategies for conveying indirect nominations in the English-Russian language pair highlight this importance.

Since the Russian language has the status of an official and working language of major international platforms, ensuring pragmatic equivalence in the translation of official administrative texts is a prerequisite for adequate intercultural and interstate communication.

Investigation of indirect references has its origin in classical theories of pragmatics in linguistics, in particular, in the theory of speech acts [Austin, 1962; Searle, 1969], the principle of cooperation [G. P. Grice, 1975] and the theory of politeness [P. Brown, S. Levinson, 1987]. In the framework of official administrative discourse, indirect reference the strategy of pragmatic mitigation [Pocheptsov, 2001]. It aims to decrease the uncompromising character of the statement, circumvent a negative connotation or assessment, and raise the discussion of the problem from an emotional to a constructive level.

Different ways of coining indirect references can be detected in philology. There are many semantical derivations, among which can be seen abstract nouns used instead of concrete nouns and the replacement of by subject-oriented constructions by impersonal and passive structures. For translatology, indirect references are quite a difficult phenomenon. According to Barkhudarov [1975], being pragmatically marked units, they do not always have identical equivalents in the target language. In these situations, the translator or interpreter can face a dilemma: a literal translation can explicate the hidden meaning, and by that it can violate diplomatic tact, while an excessively free translation risks distorting the denotative content of the source [Komissarov, 1990]. Hence, utilising the set of directed interpreter transformations is needed to achieve the pragmatic equivalency.

An analysis of empirical data [UN, 2026] suggests that translation decisions when conveying indirect nominations in the official administrative sphere are strictly subject to the laws of preserving the regulatory function of the source text. The most illustrative markers of pragmatic mitigation and strategies for their interlingual translation can be considered further.

As part of the first strategy—mitigating socioeconomic disruptive factors—international documentation avoids rigid denotative definitions that could defame certain population groups or regions. For example, the original text uses the following construction: *"...to implement target programs to support populations in vulnerable situations and expand access to basic services."* In the official Russian translation, this fragment reads: *"...реализовывать целевые программы для оказания поддержки слоям населения, находящимся в уязвимом положении, и расширять доступ к базовым услугам."* In this example, the English phrase "populations in vulnerable situations" is a classic, wordy, indirect nomination, replacing the direct concept of "the poor." The use of the categorical indicator of poverty in official discourse is labeled as excessively rigid. The translator into Russian applies a strategy of grammatical and lexical calquing of the structure of the nominative phrase, which allows for the full transmission of the mitigating effect of the original, while maintaining an objective and academic tone of narration.

The same approach can be seen in the description of regional inequality or economic backwardness of some territories where the desire to diminish the infrastructure and systemic disproportions is obvious. In the original option this fragment reads: *"...special financial measures target areas with lagging development indicators"* while in Russian it can be translated as *"специальные финансовые меры ориентированы на районы с отстающими показателями развития"*. Direct reference "backward regions" has a very high level of negative connotation and is unacceptable for official communication. Replacing it with a descriptive phrase shifts the focus of perception from the qualitative characteristics of the geographical object itself to abstract parameters that can be mathematically calculated. For translation into the Russian the language, an exact lexical-semantic correspondence is used, which preserves the veiled nature of the statement.

The issues related to gender and labor require maximum linguistic flexibility and tact for neutralizing the possible conflict generators. In the researched corpus of texts the following example can be seen: *"...to elaborate legal mechanisms to*

address gender-based disparities in remuneration across various sectors” and the translation into Russian sounds as follows: “разработать правовые механизмы для устранения гендерных диспропорций в оплате труда в различных секторах”. The English version of “gender-based disparities” hides the meaning of “wage discrimination”. The word “discrimination” carries a presumption of guilt and conflict, while the term “disparities” (inequality, inconsistency) shifts the problem to the realm of systemic balance. The Russian translation solution is based on lexical substitution (disproportion), which allows the translation to fit harmoniously into the terminology of Russian official business style without exacerbating the pragmatic pressure of the text.

A special attention is paid to the context where indirect reference is used for conceptual replacement of critical humanitarian phenomenon bordering on the crisis. In the English version it reads: “... *The international community must act quickly to reduce acute food insecurity in the affected regions.*”. The official translation suggests the following translation: “... международное сообщество должно действовать оперативно, чтобы снизить острую продовольственную небезопасность в пострадавших регионах. *The direct reference as “starvation” and “hunger” has been hidden in the abstract indirect nomination as “food insecurity”.* This allows institutions to operate in terms of food monitoring, avoiding excessive dramatization of the text, but fully preserving the scale of the problem. In the Russian version, the calqued term “food insecurity” that has become normative in political discourse has been used.

For the translation of indirect references, a consolidated matrix of standard solutions had been developed. When lexically calqued, the original model: “...*Populations in vulnerable situations*” transforms into a model of translation : “слои населения в уязвимом положении” ensuring full preservation of the descriptive structure and mitigation tone. With lexical-semantic modulation, the original model “disparities in remuneration” is transformed into “диспропорции в оплате труда,” shifting the focus from the conflict factor to the systemic one. The

translation of conceptual abstractions such as "food insecurity" into "продовольственная небезопасность" replaces an emotionally evaluative marker with an objective institutional term. Finally, grammatical substitution (nominalization), as in the example of the transition from "areas with lagging development" to "районы с отстающими показателями," transforms a qualitative feature into a measurable parameter.

The given research allows to make a conclusion that indirect references in contemporary official administrative discourse are not only stylistic decoration, but also a regulatory tool for ensuring the communicative tact at the international level.

There is a tendency that dominates in the translation of pragmatic potential of the original text through the usage of equivalent indirect references in the target language. The translators and interpreters use lexical calque, semantic modulation and terminological replacement. It allows for the necessary level of abstraction and objectivity, and for conflict-free communication, which fully meets the pragmatic objectives of formal institutional communication.

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