

Leonid V. Lebedev^{1,2}

¹Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

²Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

Moscow, Russian Federation

leoneedlebedev@gmail.com

Perception and transmission of colour words in translation within natural and artificial bilingualism (Based on V. Nabokov's novels)

Abstract

The article considers the issues of literary translation that bilingual writers face in terms of perceiving a text produced within another culture and transferring images, meanings and nuances from the original language to the reader's language in the most accurate way. This paper aims to identify the specific patterns in translation of colour terms when on the one hand there is a bilingual author who is at the same time the translator of his/her original work, and on the other hand there is the concept of cultural identity and personal perception in terms of general cultural competence of people who are not bilingual but know the language well enough to communicate freely. The research methods include linguistic observation, continuous sampling, contextual analysis, conceptual analysis, experiment, statistic analysis and interpretation of the data obtained. During the study, about 400 discrepancies in the texts of the original work and the author's translation were identified and analyzed. Three most striking examples were then selected to be given to artificial (educational) bilingual speakers of Russian as L1 and English as L2 for further comparison. The results show that the translation samples produced within artificial bilingualism are mainly constructed using nominative meanings of equivalent words which are enough for a superficial transfer of meaning and the general idea while the author conveys deeper meanings preserving and transmitting the original atmosphere and the magnitude of its poetic impact.

Keywords: autotranslation, literary bilingualism, cultural identity, cross-cultural perception, personal perception, Vladimir Nabokov, colour terms

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