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Language challenges in translating scientific and technological texts from Russian into Chinese

Abstract

The aesthetics of verbalization of scientific-technical thought is present in any language dwelling upon the harmony of grammatical, lexical and stylistic arrangement of the metalanguage of scientific description. An interpreter's task is not only to adequately express all important details but also to preserve this aesthetics. Solving the task, he/she faces not only lexical and grammatical challenges of the languages interacting in translation process but the ones that are relevant for scientific style in both languages. This paper aims to show the ways to overcome the challenges based on the examples of Russian-to-Chinese translation. Stemming from drastic structural difference of the two languages, the challenges include the homonymy of terms and some grammar phenomena, differences in morphological and syntactic patterns of verbalizing scientific-technical information. The focus is also made on various transformations: verbal noun to verb pattern, Passive to Active, varying conjunctions, the use of conjunctions to asyndeton, and inversion.

Keywords: scientific-technical text, Russian-to-Chinese translation, lexical challenges, grammatical challenges, homonymy, transformation

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For citation: Xu, H., Zheng, J. (2023). Yazykovye slozhnosti perevoda nauchno-tekhnicheskikh tekstov s russkogo yazyka na kitayskiy [Language challenges in translating scientific and technological texts from Russian into Chinese]. *Teoreticheskaya i prikladnaya lingvistika* [Theoretical and Applied Linguistics], 9 (3), 132–143. https://doi.org/10.22250/24107190_2023_9_3_132