

ЛИНГВИСТИКА. ЛИНГВОКУЛЬТУРОЛОГИЯ

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Texts of analogue TV series on medicine: linguistic features of translation and ethics (in case of English and Russian TV series)

‘The word treats as well as medicine’

В статье представлены результаты исследования межъязыкового сопоставления сериала «Доктор Хаус» на английском языке с дословным переводом, официальной версии сериала на русском языке, а также его российского аналога – сериала «Доктор Рихтер». Сериалы сравнивались в соответствии с преобразованиями при переводе. Выявлены морфологические и синтаксические трансформации в средствах выразительности и фигурах речи при переводе с английского языка на русский. Также исследовались высказывания Грегори Хауса на предмет лексики сниженного регистра и нарушении с его стороны этики и деонтологии, проводился опрос среди практикующих медицинских специалистов.

Ключевые слова: межъязыковое сопоставление, теория трансформаций, морфология, синтаксис, этика, деонтология

Material of work: Dr. Richter is the complete Russian analogue of the all-beloved American series House M.D., which means that it is possible to explore the specifics of the translation. In the conducted study we used the American TV series “House M.D” in English with word for word Russian translation [10] and official version in Russian language [7]. This serial was filmed in the USA in 2004. It includes 177 episodes in 8 seasons. And as a comparison we have chosen the Russian TV series of Dr. Richter filmed in Russia in 2017 and it includes 40 episodes, 2 seasons.

The object of research work is medical discourse within the series House M.D. and Doctor Richter. **The subject** of research work are differences and common inter- and intralinguistic features of medical discourse within the series House M.D. and Doctor Richter.

A set of the following research methods was implemented: continuous sampling, description, comparison, discourse analysis, questionnaire survey, elements of statistical methods, lexicographic study.

The research followed a structure of 4 stages. **Stage 1** is interlinguistic comparison of Russian and English TV series in accordance with transformations during translation (morphological, syntactic). To study the features of the translation, we chose episode 5 of the first season of the series Dr. House.

We consider it appropriate to outline the plot of the episode under study. At Christmas, a nun comes to the clinic complaining of a red rash with blisters on the palms, which she sees as similar to stigmata. Dr. House suspects contact dermatitis, and subsequently administers her Dimedrol with a steroid cream and lets her go. However, after 5 minutes, the patient begins to choke; Dr. House, with asthma in mind, injects her with a small dose of adrenaline, which is why the nun's pulse rises to dangerous parameters for the body. Brainstorming creates a series of spontaneous diagnoses. As a result, after a lot of theological disputes with different nuns, House figures out that everyone in the monastery is addicted to an incredibly tasty, but harmful, tea-boss tea, which, in combination with adrenaline, is capable of giving a reaction like the one that the patient developed. House's colleague suggests that the allergen may be inside the patient, if the removal of all external factors did not produce a result. Radiography of different parts of the body of the patient reveals a copper intrauterine device (albeit in the form of a cross – special for nuns), which is removed, and the patient soon recovers.

The choice fell namely on this episode, because in addition to the interlinguistic contrast of expressions, it is important for us to note the admissibility of using such vocabulary in medical practice. One of the characters of the episode is a nun, and here we have the opportunity to observe Dr. Gregory House's tactlessness not only in relation to his patient, but also in relation to the patient's faith in God, which is completely impermissible from the ethical side.

According to theories of transformations used in translation process involve: concretization, modulation, generalization, antonymic translation, grammatical replacement and emissions [9]. The material of the study, i.e. fragments extracted from medical discourse – statements of Gregory House and the protagonist of Russian TV series Dr. Richter provide data for research of transformations applied [1, 2]. In particular, (1) concretization is used in the following utterance: '*You must be all the talk* around the «holy water» cooler' (House M.D. in the original), '*Похоже, что рядом с кулером со святой водой только про Вас и говорят.*' (House M.D. in Russian). (2) Modulation is exemplified by the following utterance: 'Should have spent your time saving souls, *It's easier on the hands*' (House

M.D. in the original), ‘Лучше бы души спасали. *Меньше нагрузка на руки*’ (House M.D. in Russian). In order to reveal the meaning of the sentence, generalization is used (3): ‘I *hate nuns*’ (House M.D. in the original). ‘*Только не монашки, ненавижу их*’ (House M.D. in Russian). Antonymic translation and combining of the sentences allow you to pay attention to the main thing, for example (4): ‘I’m giving you a prescription. It’s cheap, which is good, because your insurance company won’t pay for it. Cigarettes’ (House M.D. in the original), ‘Я выпишу вам рецепт, ваша страховая за него не заплатит, но он дешевый. Сигареты’ (House M.D. in the Russian). Grammatical replacement and emission are also used in translation (5): ‘So, I was in clinic, drunk. I open the drawer, closed my eyes, take the first syringe I could find’ (House M.D. in the original), ‘Короче, я был в клинике, пьяный. Открыл ящик, закрыл глаза, схватил шприц...’ (House M.D. in Russian) or combining sentences (6): ‘You are aware of the Hippocratic oath, right? Yes, I took to read once. Wasn’t impressed’ (House M.D. in the original), ‘Вы слышали про клятву Гиппократова? На меня не подействовало’ (House M.D. in Russian). (7) Syntactic comparison is represented in the ensuing phrases: ‘So. We’ve got pride, anger, envy, gluttony ... Four out of seven deadly sins in under two minutes. Do you keep records of these things?’ (House M.D. in the original), ‘У нас есть гордыня, злость, зависть, обжорство – четыре смертных греха за пару минут’ (House M.D. in Russian).

However, transformations can be observed not only in the grammar of the sentence, but also in the form of stylistic techniques [3]. For example, (1) Vernacular phrases are used in the following sentence: ‘Relax. They’re not gone a sue’ (House M.D. in the original), ‘Расслабься. Они не обратятся в суд’ (House M.D. in Russian). (2) An example of irony can be seen in the following sentence: ‘Is there a ‘Cathlympics’?’ (House M.D. in the original), ‘Като-олимпийские игры бывают?’ (House M.D. in Russian). Moreover, the metaphor is used. For example, (4) ‘She has God inside her! It have been easier to deal with a tumor’ (House M.D. in the original), ‘В ней Бог! ... Проще справиться с опухолью’ (House M.D. in Russian).

Stage 2 is the study of the statements of Gregory House, which seem to be obviously unethical. The phrases of Gregory House were presented at Stage 1. After analyzing the translations, we evaluated these statements from ethical point of view [4].

First, we shall agree on the terminology applied in the study. *Ethics* is a philosophical discipline that studies morality, ethics [5]. *Medical ethics* is a set of ethical norms, principles that guide the health worker, a set of relevant professional,

moral, ethical and legal principles and rules that make up the concept of “duty of a medical worker” [5]. *Iatrogeny* is a pathological condition caused by careless statements or actions of a doctor (or other medical workers) that give a person an idea of whether he has a certain disease or about the particular severity of his disease [5].

It was not for nothing that we presented our work under the epigraph “The word treats as well as medicine”. In medical practice it is always necessary to treat patients with respect and refrain from unethical statements. A word that a doctor has inadvertently said may cause a new disease. Gregory House is completely incapable of observing subordination and prescribed norms; he is selfish and incapable of true compassion. In a series selected for analysis, we can see how Dr. House allows himself to speak with deeply religious people. In our opinion, doctors who consider it normal to communicate with patients this way can cause psychological trauma to patients, in addition to physical illness.

Stage 3 is conducting a survey among persons aged 35 to 50 years old who have medical education and are practicing physicians. The survey was based on an analysis of Gregory House's statements.

The aim of the survey was to evaluate Gregory house attitude towards patients by medical practitioners (25 people) in Kazan [8].

The survey contained the following questions: ‘Do you watch House D.M.?', ‘Would you like to go to an appointment with such a doctor?', ‘Do all people lie?', ‘Do you consider it appropriate to avoid communicating with the sick?', ‘Would you tolerate such a doctor in a Russian hospital?’

Those 50% who answered the last question positively indicate that sometimes the correct diagnosis is important for a polite attitude towards the patient. However, not all of these 50% are willing to tolerate insults at a doctor's office.

Research **Stage 4** focused on differences revealed between the original American TV series House M.D. (2004) and its’ Russian analogue Doctor Richter (2017). Basically, difference fall into (3) groups: (1) administered treatment:

<i>House M.D</i>	<i>Doctor Richter</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I`m giving you a prescription. It`s cheap, which is good, because your insurance company won`t pay for it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I'll prescribe the medicine for you, but it works better than any patented one.
<i>Cigarettes.</i>	<i>20 grams of alcohol</i>

(2) narration of events and personal condition specified in Russian and generalized in English episode. For example,

House M.D

○ So, I was in clinic, drunk. I open the drawer, closed my eyes, *take the first syringe I can find*

Doctor Richter

○ Well, *I'm an old idiot*, a *drug addict*, spent the night in a brothel, in the morning I planted a bubble and injected twenty holy adrenalin cubes to the holy martyr

(3) Specified list of sins along with neologism ‘*Catho-olimpic games*’ is found in “House M.D” episode, though it is omitted in Russian. For example,

House M.D

○ So. *We've got pride, anger, envy, gluttony ...Four out of seven deadly sins in under two minutes*. Do you keep records of these things? Is there a ‘*Catholympics*’?

Doctor Richter

○ *Envy girlfriend, indulged in gluttony, pride extinguished ... And it's just two minutes*

○ *She has God inside her!* It have been easier to deal with a tumor. mor

○ *God see in it*. Better a tu-

Despite the fact that the means of dealing with the disease are not drugs, neither in the first nor in the second case, and the recipe itself is unethical, House G. is more intelligent and restrained. Richter's vocabulary is close to informal. The very statements of Dr. House are imbued with a very subtle irony, American humor. The creators of the Russian TV series Doctor Richter, do not provide lexical units to convey it, therefore the doctor himself sometimes looks silly and simply ill-mannered.

Step 5 involved comparison of vocabulary, describing two similar clinical cases, as well as related symptoms and treatment methods based on the American TV series Dr. House and the Russian TV series Dr. Richter.

For example, a specific name of symptoms or treatment options provided are found only in English episode, namely, *allergic reaction, prednisone, steroid creams*.

Despite common notions applied, a number of different terms, for example *clean room and purgatory*.

Also we can see identical disorder, but reason is different. In particular *intestinal disorder* in House M.D is a common clinical case. But in Russian series Dr. Richter puts on a *bearish symptom* [6]. In official medicine is called irritable bowel syndrome. This is a psychosomatic intestinal disorder, in which neuro-emotional stress provokes the emergence of a sharp uncontrollable urge to defecate with the release of diluted stool (see Table 1).

**Differences of treatment and symptoms in American TV series
Dr. House and Russian TV series Dr. Richter**

	<i>House M.D</i>	<i>Doctor Richter</i>
Patient	Sister Augustine	Sister Sergius
Disorder (I)	Contact dermatitis	Contact dermatitis
Symptoms	Allergic reaction, red and swollen hands, pain	Joint pain, redness, rash
Treatment	Diphenhydramine (antihistamine) Prednisone (steroid) Steroid cream	Antihistamine
Disorder (II)	Asthma attack	Heart attack
Symptoms	Respiratory distress	Difficulty breathing
Treatment	Epinephrine	Adrenaline
Disorder (III)	Churg-Strauss vacuities	Churg-Strauss disorder
Symptoms	Inflamed lungs, skin, blood vessels, asthma, rash	Vascular dilatation, asthma, rash, heart attack
Treatment	Steroids, Hyperbolic oxygen chamber Clean room	Anti-inflammatory drugs, steroids Send to the “Purgatory”
Patient	Patient in the hospital	Worker in the hospital
Disorder	Inflammatory bowel disease	Bearish
Symptoms	Blood, gas, pain	Gas, loose stools
Treatment	Cigarettes	20 grams of the spirit

The comparison of various transformations allows us to most clearly and fully convey the emotions of the main characters. Both in Russian and English languages there are numerous stylistic techniques that help to preserve irony. We also evaluated Gregory House as a professional doctor and complying with his ethical norms and rules. According to the survey, which we compiled for a more complete assessment of the ethical side of the issue, it was revealed out that more than half of the practitioners of Kazan hospitals surveyed would not have hired a doctor like Gregory House, because patients do not have to tolerate insults in order to make a correct diagnosis. Also in the last part of our work, it was determinate that the same symptoms can be a manifestation of completely different diseases,

and therefore have a completely different treatment. Moreover, the same disease may have different symptoms, which have been demonstrated in several examples.

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