ABSTRACT

Subject matter: Ethnic-Cultural Aspect of Translation of the North Caucasus Nations’ Folk Tales

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Topicality of the research: The translation of folk tales is becoming a topical issue. Firstly, because it’s a problem of acquainting the readers with literatures of other people which is directly related to nurturing a respectful attitude towards it. Secondly, and no less important problem is the rehabilitation of national cultures frequently being levelled and russified. And as soon as the translator happens to speak not on his/her own behalf but on behalf of the whole nation that has created the tale then a dull or inappropriate translation can distort a genuine idea of this nation and often of the whole ethnic culture. Among the difficult issues of translation the issue of the ethnic specificity of folklore and its special retaining in the folk tales still remains topical.
Until present the issue of ethnic and cultural aspects of the North Caucasus nations’ folk tales hasn’t been the focus of research papers.

The goal of the research paper is to analyze the ethnic-culture-loaded words in the folk tales of the North Caucasus nations and the ways of their translation into English.

To achieve this goal we need to settle the next tasks of the research:
- to find out the anthropological and cognitive aspects of the language and culture interrelation;
- to study the concept of the North Caucasus mentality and define its place in the world culture;
- to analyze the nation-specific cultural specificity of everyday way of life and spirits of North Caucasus people;
- to consider the types of the folk tales texts in the folklore of the North Caucasus peoples;
- to analyze the main difficulties of ethnic realia translation and define the basic techniques of the culture-specific words (CSW) translation;
- to compile a mini-glossary of culture-specific words of the folk tales.

Hypothesis of the research paper is as follows: the ethnicity cultural aspect of North Caucasus folk tales and stories should be taken into consideration by the translator and he/she should adequately transfer into the target language the meanings contained in the national realia-words that reflect specific culture elements of a North Caucasus nation.

Theoretical importance of the research consists in analyzing the problems connected with the ethnic cultural aspect of translation of the folk tales into English. The paper analyzes the translation techniques of culture-specific lexical units of the North Caucasus nations’ folk tales from Russian into English.

Practical value of the research is in compiling the glossary to the folk tales of the North Caucasus nations and a collection of materials for conducting the
Translation classes named “Ethnicity cultural aspect of translating the folk tales’ texts (based on the texts of the North Caucasus nations’ folk tales)”.  

Besides, the results of the research paper can be used by teaching staff while preparing for lectures, seminars and practical classes in Lexicology, Modern Theory of Translation and Interpretation, Translation and Interpretation Practice, Theory of Intercultural Communication.

Results of the research:
- anthropological and cognitive aspects of the language and culture interrelation have been described;
- a brief description of the notion of “the Caucasus national mentality” and its place in the world culture have been presented;
- a brief analysis of culture-specific features of everyday life and the spiritual life of mountainous nations has been made;
- ethnic culture realia analysis has been made;
- the main difficulties arising in the translation of ethnic culture realia of folk tales texts of the North Caucasus peoples have been analyzed;
- the main translation strategies of ethnic culture-specific words from Russian into English have been defined;
- a mini-glossary of ethnic culture-specific words of the folk tales has been compiled;
- it has been found out that as the translation of the national (North Caucasus) folklore texts, as a rule, is made not from the native language but from Russian (and the translator is, as usual, a Russian native speaker, then the translator should “deeply penetrate” into the national specificity of the source text in order to avoid levelling off the source text and to adequately render the ethnic coloring of the text reflected first of all in the ethnic culture-specific words.

Recommendations:
The results of the research conducted can be applied to the training of interpreters and translators at different levels of academic studies (BA, MA and specialists courses) in teaching students with majors in translatology, interpretation and translation, as well as in the intercultural communication, in the English language course to get students acquainted with non-equivalent words of the folk tales as well as while compiling a three languages dictionary of culture-specific words of the North Caucasus nations.