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The Interlingual Lacunae in the Ukrainian Language

Differences between languages, due to the difference in cultures, are the most noticeable in vocabulary and phraseology, since the nominative means of the language are most directly related to the extralinguistic reality. In any language and dialect, there are words that do not have a one-word translation in other languages. The lexical unit of one language often does not find a dictionary equivalent in the other. Lacunarity is found in almost all the languages of the world. National specific elements in the lexical systems of languages and cultures in recent decades are described by many researchers in various aspects through a variety of terms: lacuna (J.P. Vine and J. Darbelne, V.L. Muraviev), a gap, white spots on the semantic map of the language (Y.S. Stepanov), examples of non-transitive character (V.G. Chernov), non-equivalent, lexical zero, zero lexeme (I.A. Sternin), non-equivalent or background vocabulary (L.S. Barkhudarov, E.M. Vereshchagin, V.G. Kostomarov) and so on.

The relevance of the study lies in the fact that the process of borrowing is accelerating, which can be explained by the influence of the information revolution and the general globalization on our life. The living conditions of the people give rise to the concepts that are fundamentally absent from the speakers of other languages. Accordingly, in other languages there are no a single-word lexical equivalents for their transmission [3: 210].

The purpose of the study is to find out the peculiarities of the functioning of interlingual lacunae in different languages, which is connected with the solution of the following tasks: the definition of the concept of lacunae, the identification of the types of lacunae in the Ukrainian language.

The concept of lacuna is interpreted in terms of invariant and option of some verbal and non-verbal behavior in a particular local culture. An invariant is understood as the unit of such kinds of verbal behavior, which are common to a number of linguistic and cultural variants of behavior.

The reasons for these processes are different and diverse. They can be:

1. the absence of the corresponding traditions, processes, phenomena in one of the languages (*Cockney – лондонський акцент*);

2. the absence of a single-word designation for certain objects or concepts in the language (*coroner – слідчий, що веде справу про рантову насильницьку смерть*);

3. the lacunarity with respect to the lexical system of the source language (*bootlegger – торговець контрабандними спиртними напоями*);

4. the conversion, typical for the English language (some verbs, are derivatives of nouns: *to afforest – засадити лісами*);

5. phonetic feature of the language: the lacunar unit appears in this case because of the characteristics of the phonetics of different languages.

According to the type of nomination lacunae can be nominative and stylistic. Nominative lacunae are lacunas that reflect the absence of a denotation nomination. There may have no nomination of the subject at all, or there may be no emotional or evaluation nomination. Stylistic lacuna – the absence of a word with a certain stylistic characteristic, this is a purely linguistic characteristic of the lacuna. For example, in Ukrainian there is no stylistically neutral designation of sexual intercourse, acts of defecation and urination. Literary and even colloquial denominations of these denotations are stylistic lacunae, which leads to the compensation of lacunae by various euphemisms [1: 135].

Our study primarily investigates the nominative lacunae. For example: Ukrainian-German lacunae: *Kabarettist – артист, який виконує сатиричні мініатюри*; *torkeln, taumeln – йти та качатись у різні сторони*; *morastig – вкритий калюжами*; *Multifariousness – неправильне об'єднання позовних вимог в одному позові*; *Defaulter – сторона, що ухиляється від з'явлення до суду*; *Reformatory – виправна установа*; *Fachwerkhaus – улюблений у Німеччині тип житлового будинку в XVI–XVII ст.*; *Richtfest – свято з нагоди зведення будинку під дах*; *Fruhschoppen – невелика компанія, яка*

збирається в неділю в першій половині дня в ресторані, щоб випити пиво й поспілкуватися. Ukrainian-English lacunae: *barber* – пара над водою в морозний день; *toddler* – дитина, яка починає ходити.

Such vocabulary is the part of the national culture.

The main difficulties in transferring of lacunae are:

1) the lack of correspondence in the language due to the absence of the designated object from the speakers of this language;

2) the necessity to convey the national and historical reality.

However, even when such an equivalent exists and it is fixed in dictionaries, the translator cannot always be sure that the equivalent is included in the receptive dictionary of the final recipient.

Interlingual lacunae are the absences of words for designating concepts that undoubtedly exist in the society and which have a special verbal designation in another language [1: 261].

In the Ukrainian language there is no comparison with the English notation for the following concepts: *двоюрідний брат чи сестра* – *cousin*, *ніти і щось принести* – *fetch*, *знаходиться у стані покою* – *rest*, *вихідні дні від суботи до неділі* – *weekend*, *домашня тварина* – *pet*, *схильність до впливу сил природи* – *exposer*, *двотижневий період* – *fortnight* and others.

In Ukrainian there are no words equivalent to the German *initiieren* – *надати думку*; *inhaltsreich* – *багатий за змістом*; *plakatieren* – *розклеювати плакати*; *Abendgymnasium* – *вечірня школа, що дає право скласти іспит та вступити до вищого навчального закладу*; *Allerseelen* – *поминальний день у католиків*; *Bayrischkraut* – *капуста, квашена з салом, цукром та оцтом*; *Vockbier* – *міцне пиво, що виробляється з листопіда по березень*.

The following groups of lacunae are distinguished in linguistics.

1) In the terms of abstract content: subjective and abstract. Subjective lacunae reflect the absence of a material, physical, sensory-perceived object or phenomenon. Abstract lacunae reflect the absence of an abstract concept (*tuition* – *плата за навчання*. is a subjective lacuna for the Ukrainian language, *approach* – *намагання зав'язати дружбу, налагодити контакти* is abstract).

2) According to the paradigmatic characteristic, the place in the language paradigms: generic and species.

Generic lacunae reflect the absence of a common name for a class of objects, species – the absence of the individual varieties of objects or phenomena [11: 200]. For example, in Ukrainian there is no general name for *дідусь* and *бабуся*, in English and German such names are: *Grandparents* and *Grosseltern*. This is a generic lacuna for the Ukrainian language. On the other hand, in Ukrainian there are no differentiated single-word designations for wrist watches and desktop clocks – these are species gaps for the Ukrainian language (in English *watch*, *clock*).

3) According to non-linguistic conditionality: motivated and unmotivated.

Motivated gaps are lacunae, which are explained by the absence of a corresponding object or phenomenon to national culture (*carrel* – *кабіна для індивідуальної наукової роботи (в бібліотеці і т.п.)*). Unmotivated lacuna cannot be explained by the absence of a phenomenon or object, but there are no words indicating them (*maltreatment* – *погане поводження; fosterage* – *виховання чужої дитини, nonreader* – *дитина, яка насилу опановує навички читання*).

4) According to the affiliation of the lacuna to certain parts of speech: partial lacunae. For example, the Ukrainian-English lacuna *acclaim* – *дуже сильно аплодувати у знак схвалення; demonstrator* – *демонстратор, асистент професора (демонструє дослідди на факультеті природничих наук коледжу або університету)*.

Interlingual lacunae are distinguished only within the limits of the compared languages with their contrast description as cases in which there is no correspondence to the unit of one language in another. Interlingual lacuna in this case is a non-equivalent lacuna. Thus, the concepts of the interlingual lacunae and the zero-equivalents unit are relative: the first stand out against the background of the latter and mutually suggest each other [6: 46].

A huge role is played by various kinds of associations. In comparison, the displacement of the dominant (invariant) features of the generalized image is possible. The collision of various associations leads to the fact that the portable values in different languages may not be the same [10: 15].

Lacunae can be relative when a word existing in the source language is used very rarely and even less often when translated into a foreign language. In the case of relative gaps, we are talking about the particular use of words, the greater or lesser significance of this concept, common for two languages.

The division of lacunae into linguistic and extralinguistic is very important. Intermediate position is occupied by linguistic and cultural lacunae. Lacunae revealed by comparing languages or units within a language are called linguistic. They disclose discrepancies (void spaces, gaps, dips) between units of comparable languages (interlingual lacunae) or units (real and potential) within one language (intralinguistic lacunae) [7: 13].

Cultural lacunae are reflected in the language of the speakers of this culture in the process of communication.

Interlingual lacunae are revealed when different languages are compared: if one of them does not reveal a lexical equivalent to any unit of another language, then one can speak of the existence of a lacuna in it. Intralinguistic lacunae – are found inside the paradigms of one language, for example, by the absence of a word with the opposite meaning, the absence of a unit with a certain stylistic reference, the absence of any morphological form of a word, and so on [9: 23].

Analyzing the components of the meaning of a word, it is necessary to highlight information indicating the presence of figurative or other associative links in the content of the word.

So, when comparing the vocabulary of several languages, you can find gaps, white spots in the semantics of one of the languages, which are called lexical lacunae and appear as a result of the absence of the equivalent in the form of a word. Lacunar units can be determined by the social, economic and political processes taking place in the society. At the same time, they can depend on the characteristics of the grammatical and phonetic system of the language. Moreover they permeate all the groups of the vocabulary.

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