

# **COLLOCATIONAL ASPECTS OF TRANSLATION**

Lecture 4.

# Lecture 4:

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- 1. Handling Attributive Groups
- 2. Handling Phraseological Units
  
- Key words:
- Dissimilarity, semantic structure, attribute, multi-member attributive structures, internal semantic relationship, phraseological units, figurative set expressions, idioms.



# Handling attributive groups

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- There is a considerable dissimilarity in the semantic structure of attributive groups in English and in Russian.
- This dissimilarity gives rise to a number of translation problems.

# Handling attributive groups

- The **first group** of problems stems from the broader semantic relationships between the attribute and the noun.
- The attribute may refer not only to some ***property*** of the object but also to its ***location, purpose, cause***, etc.

# Handling attributive groups

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- A thorough analysis of the context :
  1. ***to find out what the meaning of the group is*** in each particular case.
  2. ***to be aware of the relative freedom*** of bringing together such semantic elements within the attributive group in English that are distanced from each other by a number of intermediate ideas.



# Handling attributive groups

- e.g. ***the Executive Committee*** —  
(исполнительный комитет)
- a word-for-word translation of the name of the executive body may satisfy the translator.

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- E.G. The next attributive group -
  - ***“the Executive resolution”***
  - may be described as a resolution submitted by an executive body of an organization and
  - can be rendered into Russian as
  - *«резолюция, предложенная ИСПОЛКОМОМ»*



# Handling attributive groups

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- ***"The Executive majority"***
- means the majority of votes received by such a resolution
- and will be translated as
- *«БОЛЬШИНСТВО ГОЛОСОВ, ПОДАННЫХ ЗА РЕЗОЛЮЦИЮ, КОТОРАЯ БЫЛА ПРЕДЛОЖЕНА ИСПОЛКОМОМ».*



# Handling attributive groups

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- The **second group** of problems results from the difficulties in handling multi-member attributive structures.
- The English-speaking people make a wide use of "multi-storied" structures with complicated internal semantic relationships.

# Handling attributive groups

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- The tax paid for the right to take part in the election is described as "**the poll tax**".
- The states where this tax is collected are "**the poll tax states**" and the governors of these states are "**the poll tax states governors**".
- Now these governors may hold a conference which will be referred to as "**the poll tax states governors conference**" and so on.



# Handling attributive groups

- The semantic relationships within a multi-member group ***need not be linear.***
- E.G.
- *It was the period of **the broad western hemisphere and world pre-war united people's front** struggle against fascism.*

# Handling attributive groups

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- A whole network of semantic ties between the attributes and the noun:
- **"broad"** is directly referred to **"struggle"**,
- **"western hemisphere"** is joined with **"world"**
- and together they express the idea of location, i.e. **"the struggle in the western hemisphere"**;

# Handling attributive groups



- **"pre-war"** may be referred either to **"struggle"** or to the **"united people's front"**;
- **"united"** and **"people's"** belong to **"front"** and together they qualify the **"struggle"** implying either the **"struggle by the united people's front"**
- or the **"struggle for the united people's front"**.

# Handling attributive groups

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- In translation this complexity of semantic ties will result in **replacing** the group by a number of different structures in which the hidden relations within it will be made explicit:
- *Это был период широкой предвоенной борьбы против фашизма за единый народный фронт в Западном полушарии и во всем мире.*



# Handling attributive groups

- Given **multiplicity of possible translations** of such structures should be analysed in terms of factors influencing the choice of TL variants rather than with the aim of listing regular correspondences.

# Handling attributive groups

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- The same goes for attributive groups with latent predication where a whole sentence is used to qualify a noun as its attribute.
- *“The Judge's face wore his own **I-knew-they-were-guilty-all-along expression**”.*
- “На лице судьи появилось обычное выражение, говорившее: **«Я все время знал, что они виновны».**”





# Handling attributive groups

- Here correspondences can also be described in an indirect way only by stating that the attribute is usually translated into Russian ***as a separate sentence*** and that this sentence should be joined to the noun by a short introductory element.

# Handling attributive groups

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- There was a man with ***a don't-say-anything-to-me-or-I'll-contradict-you face.*** (Ch. Dickens)
- Там был человек, на лице которого было написано: что бы вы мне ни говорили, я все равно буду вам противоречить.

# Handling attributive groups

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- There is **one more peculiar feature** of the English attributive group which may be the cause of trouble for the translator.
- It may be transformed into a similar group with the help of **a suffix** which is formally attached to the noun but is **semantically related to the whole group**.



# Handling attributive groups

- Thus "a sound sleeper" may be derived from "sound sleep"
- or the man belonging to the "Fifth column" may be described as "the Fifth column**ist**".

## Handling attributive groups

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- As a rule, in the Russian translation the meanings of the original group and of the suffix would be rendered separately,
- e.g.: ***человек, обладающий здоровым (крепким) сном (крепко спящий человек),***
- and ***человек, принадлежащий к пятой колонне (член пятой колонны).***

# Handling attributive groups

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- Translating the meaning of an English attributive group into Russian may involve a ***complete restructuring of the sentence***, e.g.:
- To watch it happen, all within two and a half hours, was a thrilling sight.
- Нельзя было не восхищаться, наблюдая, как все это происходило на протяжении каких-нибудь двух с половиной часов.

# Handling Phraseological Units



- Phraseologism- is a set- expression with complex semantics, which meaning can not be deducted from the literal definitions and arrangements of its parts.

# The levels of phraseological units:

- Phraseological units (Phr.U.) fixed in the corresponding dictionary ;
- Phraseological units, which are going out of use but are fixed in the dictionaries ;
- Phraseological units that are known only to certain groups of society;
- Phraseological units that are known to everybody but they are not fixed in the dictionaries.



# Handling Phraseological Units



- Translating a Phr.U. is not an easy matter as it depends on several factors:
- different combinability of words,
- homonymy,
- polysemy,
- synonymy of Phr.U.,
- presence of falsely identical units.

# Handling Phraseological Units

- Besides, a large number of Phr.U. have a stylistic-expressive component in meaning, which usually has a specific national feature.
- Types of Phr.U.:
- ***phrasemes and idioms.***



# Handling Phraseological Units

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- **Phraseme** – a unit of constant context consists of a dependent and constant indicators.
- **An idiom** – a unit of constant context which is characterized by an integral meaning of the whole and by weakened meaning of the components, and in which the dependant and the indicating elements are identical and equal to the whole lexical structure of the phrase.

# Handling Phraseological Units



- Main types of phraseological conformities in different languages:
  - 1. complete conformities,
  - 2. partial conformities,
  - 3. absence of conformities.



# Main types of phraseological conformities

- 1. ***Complete conformities***  
(complete coincidence of form and content)
- To draw a line (phraseme)
- To bring oil to fire (idiom)



# Main types of phraseological conformities

- **2. *Partial conformities*** (assume lexical, grammatical, and lexico-grammatical differences with identity of meaning and style, i.e. they are figuratively close but differ in lexical composition, morphologic number and syntactic arrangement of the order of words.
  - **1) *by lexical composition***
  - To get out of bed on the wrong foot (idiom)– встать с левой ноги.

# Main types of phraseological conformities

- 2) ***by grammatical parameters***  
***(morphological arrangement / number)***
- To fish in troubled waters (idiom) –  
ЛОВИТЬ РЫБУ В МУТНОЙ ВОДЕ,
- To agree like cats and dogs (phraseme)  
– ЖИТЬ КАК КОШКА С СОБАКОЙ.

# Main types of phraseological conformities

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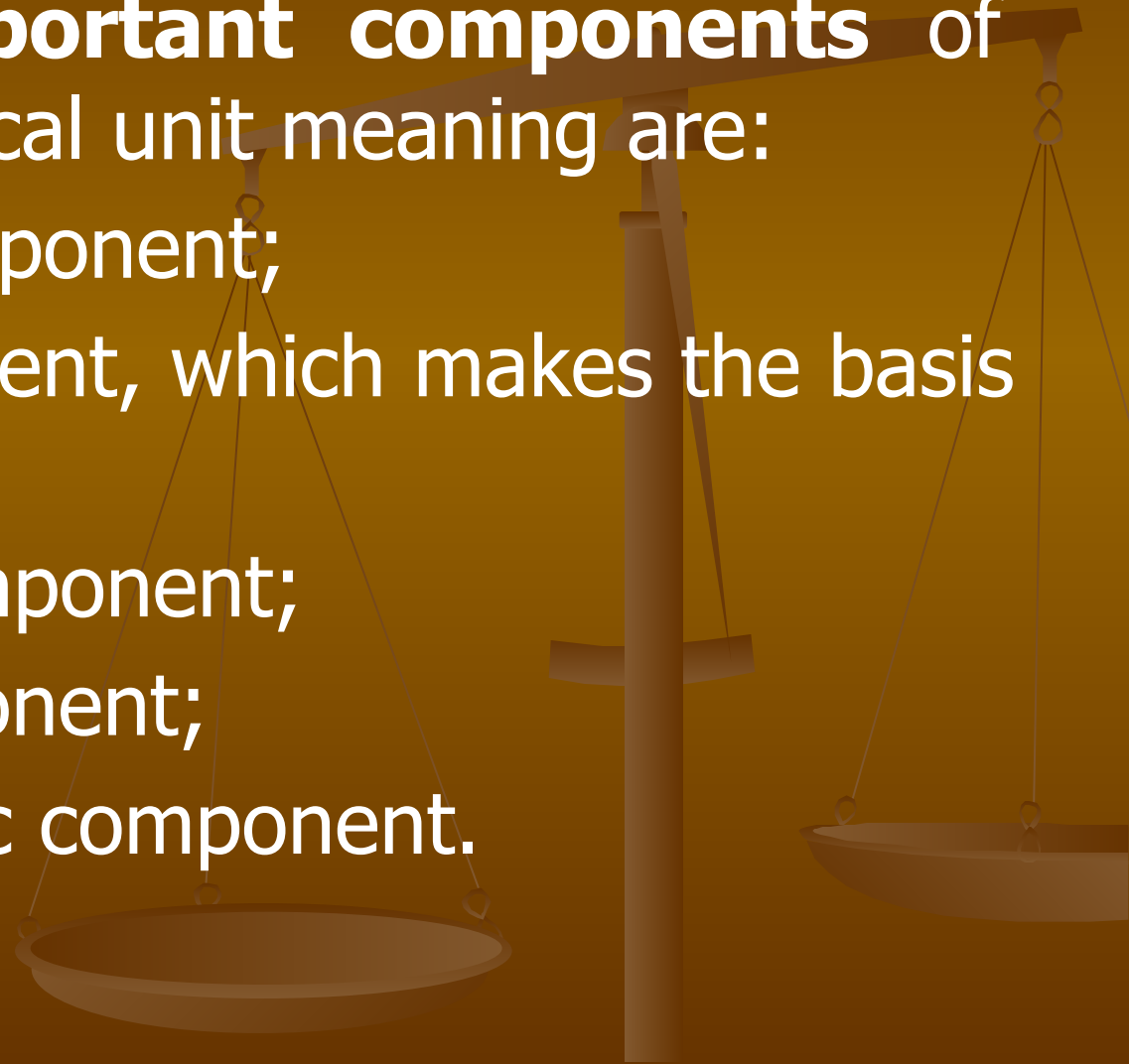
- 3) ***syntactical arrangement***
- Egyptian darkness – тьма египетская,
- All is not gold that glitters – не все золото, что блестит.



# Choosing the TL correspondence

**the most important components** of the phraseological unit meaning are:

- figurative component;
- direct component, which makes the basis of the image;
- emotional component;
- stylistic component;
- national ethnic component.



# Translation difficulties

One of the most difficult tasks of translation is to reproduce equivalently the meaning of the figurative phraseological units.

Semantics of these units is a complex informative set, containing both subject-logical and connotative components.

# The ways of conveying phraseologisms by means of:

- Phraseological equivalents, i.e. such an image-bearing phraseological units, which fully corresponds in meaning to English phraseological units and are based on the same image.
- e.g. *The game is not worth the candle*
- *Игра не стоит свеч.*

# The ways of conveying phraseologisms by means of

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- Phraseological analogues. There are few image-bearing phraseological units having the same meaning and image in both languages, that is why a translator has to find a corresponding analogue having the same meaning but bearing different image.
- e.g. *Make hay while the sun shines.*
- *Куй железо пока горячо.*

# The ways of conveying phraseologisms by means of:

- Word- for-word translation, when phraseological unit has a certain image that can be easily perceived by a Russian reader and creates the feeling of naturalness and can be adopted as a source one.
- e.g. *Black gold*.
- *Черное золото*.

## **The ways of conveying phraseologisms by means of**

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- Descriptive way of translation, that is describing of the phraseological unit with a help of free word combinations.
- e.g. *To cross the floor.*
- *Перейти из одной партии в другую.*

# The ways of conveying phraseologisms by means of



- Contextual substitution.
- The translator has to find such Russian word combination that would render fully enough its meaning in a particular context.
- e.g. *I know, I do not express myself properly, I am a bad hand at sentimentality.*
- *Я знаю, что сентиментальность не по моей части.*

# Home Assingnment

- ◆ Petrenko N.M.
- ◆ p. 46 ex.1
- ◆ P. 47 ex. 2
- ◆ P. 51 ex.1, 2, 4