

Vyara PETKOVA  
Naval Academy, Varna

## Interlingual Transformations in Loan-Translation of English Three-Element Maritime Terms

Petkova, V.: *Interlingual transformations in loan-translation of English three-element maritime terms.*

Int. Classif. 19(1992)No.2, p. 94, 4 refs.

The study is based on the assumption that loan-translation or calquing is a type of translation resulting in the creation of new tools of translation. Analysed here are English terminological units following the patterns (Adj + N + N) and (N + N + N) and the transformations which take place in the calques. The analysis shows that loan-translation is a conscious, controllable activity and not always a word-for-word translation.

(Author)

As is well known, one of the linguistic methods of designation is borrowing from other languages directly or via loan-translation (calquing). The method is used *"particularly when a conceptual innovation first occurs in another country and when the concept is first introduced into a country via a foreign language"* (3). Synchronically one of the major sources of term-formation in Bulgarian maritime terminology is English, thanks to the direct contacts with this language in the field of maritime communication where it is used as a working intermediary language (2).

The study of E loan-translation in particular is grounded on the following theoretical assumptions:

1. Loan-translation is regarded as a kind of "lexico-semantic translation" (3),

2. The specificity of calquing as a kind of translation lies in that it is simultaneously term-forming, generating as it does new tools of translation. E.g. the B terms *mertvo navlo* and *ednovintov korab* were produced via translation of the E terms "dead freight" and "single screw ship",

3. Term-formation via calquing is based on the motivation of the complex E term translated, and

4. Since neologisms in science and technology result from the need of naming new concepts, loan-term formation is viewed as one of the ways of transfer of nautical knowledge and the calques as a result of this transfer.

Here are analysed 32 units following the term-formation pattern: (Adj + N1 + N2) and (N1 + N2 + N3) and their Bulgarian equivalents. Actually the E terms analysed are expanded to element terms, following the pattern (N1 + N2) which is preferred by scientists and technologists, for it offers condensed linguistic information. Here we con-



Vyara Petkova, a graduate from Sofia University in English Philology, she has been teaching English at the Naval Academy in Varna. Her thesis and her further studies are dedicated to Bulgarian-English language contacts in the field of maritime communication.

sider only premodified compounds with adjectives and adjectival nouns. Two cases are observed with premodifying adjectives: First, the adjective refers to the noun in attributive use N1, and they both form one semantic unit which premodifies N2, e.g. the species term 'research ship' and the subspecies term 'oceanographic research ship'. Sometimes the attributive group (Adj + N) is primary and then added to N2 to produce a species term of another order, 'calm water' -> 'calm water speed'. Second, the adjective premodifier may refer to the primary (N + N) compound, e.g. 'war clause' -> 'general war clause'.

Different relationships are also observed when premodifying involves increasing of adjectival nouns. First, (N1 -> N2) -> N3, e.g. the term 'fog signal station'. Here the term 'fog signal' refers to N3 - 'station'. Besides, there is another, more generic term 'signal station'. The combination of a species term from one order with a species term from another order results in a subspecies term from the second order = fog signal station. Second, N1 -> (N2 -> N3), e.g. 'ocean weather station'. Here from the genus term 'station' the species term 'weather station' is formed. When this term is premodified with 'ocean' we have the subspecies term 'ocean weather station'.

The Bulgarian equivalents, i.e. the calques, are not literal translations of the E terms. Similarly to other types of translation, the aim is to preserve the information contained in the terms translated, but contrary to other translations the aspiration is to preserve this information in the framework of the operative standardized Bulgarian word-formation patterns. Since the word-formation patterns of both languages do not coincide completely, the following transformations take place:

### I. Grammatical substitution:

- (a) An adjectival noun is substituted for by an adjective because the pattern (N + N) is not characteristic of Bulgarian, e.g. *obshcha voenna klauza* <- 'general war clause'; (b) an attributive phrase (Adj + N), which determines N2 and the whole unit as a species term, is replaced by a compound adjective, e.g. *dvukorpusen korab* <- 'twin-hull vessel'; (c) if an attributive phrase functions as a term and is combined with another genus term to produce a subspecies term, the whole three-element term is transformed into a prepositional term phrase, e.g. 'particular average' -> 'particular average loss' > *chastna avariya* - > 'bulk cargo vessel' > *korab za nasipni tovari*.