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

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Petkova,V.: Interlingual transformations in loan-transla-
tion 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 analy-
sis 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 introdu-
ced into a country via a foreign language"* (3). Synchro-
nically 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 intermedia-
ry language (2).

The study of E loan-translation in particular is groun-
ded 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 itr 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 motiva-
tion of the complex E term translated, and

4. Since neologisms in science and technology result
from the need of naming new concepts, loan-term forma-
tion 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-forma-
tion 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-

sider only premodified compounds with adjectives and
adjectival nouns. Two cases are observed with premodi-
fying 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 prima-
ry (N + N) compound, e.g. 'war clause' -> 'general war
clause'.

Different relationships are also observed when premo-
difying 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 combina-
tion 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 for-
med. 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 con-
tained in the terms translated, but contrary to other trans-
lations 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 deter-
mines 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*.