

An Intermediary Translation Japanese Words into Russian through English As an Intermediate Language.

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In recent years, the term “English as a lingua franca”(ELF) has emerged as a way of referring to communication in English between speakers with different first languages, culture and writing system.

Language and culture contacts between Japan’s population, on one side, and the Europeans, the Americans, the Australians and other nations, on the other side, also often occurs through the English language.

We should also point out the fact that status assessment and role of English in the modern world is ambiguous. “Triumphalists” believe that its global spread that is

responsible for inevitable objective process which is caused by historical, politico-economical, scientific and technical, and what is more linguistic factors.

On the one hand, “Skeptics” accuse the English language of the linguistic genocide. On the other hand, they are afraid for its own death caused by fragmentation. It is undeniable that English undergoes significant changes at all levels of its structure, vary according to local variants discharging mediatorial function.

We cannot ignore the fact that polycentrism is the main characteristic of modern English. The fact that in contemporary world English is spoken by far more people for which it isn't native language demonstrates a necessity of flexible language norm approach, especially local variants of English.

The unifier of local variants is so called “English as an international language” (EIL). It's certain standard which is necessary for successful understanding between persons who speak regional variants and at the same time use it in international bodies and institutions. However, when English is chosen as the means of communication among people from different first language backgrounds, across linguacultural boundaries, the preferred term is ‘English as a lingua franca. [1]

English as an intermediary language is a conductor of culture as from West to East and from East to West. Vast contacts of the Japanese language with English provide their interinfluence and cross-fertilisation.

This concept of cultural and linguistic contactology opens perspectives for further study of languages interaction phenomena which are in close contacts in spite of the typological and genetic varieties between them.

Some social and economic and cultural contacts between Russia and Japan are often carried out not directly by using Japanese and Russian languages but by means of English acting as an intermediary language.

Now let's consider the influence of English upon Japanese which is shown at different levels of the language although to different extents. In particular, at the lexical level the impact of the English language is most pronounced at the formation of new words on English bases — some of these neologisms are included into the English

language and act as pseudo-borrowings. Latinization of writing to some extent taking place in Japan conducted to the penetration of orientalisms in English.

However, different systems of latinization, significant differences in the systems of the Japanese and English languages, variant dialectal sources of borrowings and a number of other factors complicate adaptation of orientalisms in English and their translation from English into Russian, which we call intermediary translation. This type of translation differs from the direct translation from Japanese into Russian.

Nontraditional correlation of the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets is a special challenge at translation of Japanese borrowings. There is also a problem of orthographic formatting of borrowings and the abundance of these problems leads to the orthographic varieties. Grammatical accident of borrowing is not stable either in English or in Russian which also causes serious difficulties in using orientalisms.

There are also semantic problems in translation of Japanese borrowings from English into Russian among which the main are semantic mismatch of words' volume and "false friends".

Translators from English into Russian is often faced with the problem of doublets' translation arising from borrowing orientalisms in Russian language based on two ways— direct from the Japanese languages and indirectly from English.

If we take into consideration the range and depth of the spread of English in the modern world, we can assume that the indirect way of borrowings will be more expanded.

The worldview reflected by intermediary translation shows a complex development of relations between the European and Asian nations from total rejection of people of another culture to using each others' experience in management, business, science and technology, medicine, entertainment, etc.

Consequently, due to language we can trace the relationship between the neighboring peoples and their cultures, their opposition and interests to each other. The English language being an intermediary in the cultural and linguistic contacts reflects the relationship of the contacting peoples like a mirror, including the peoples of the East

and the West.

Tripartite contact of these languages are reflected through the prism of the English language as an intermediary in international relations due to implementation by English language its culturological function, in other words the function of the spread of ethnic cultures among the peoples.

Intermediary translation, i.e. translation from the intermediate language implies knowledge of the basic interferential variations in the regional variety of the English language and certain regular phonographic correlations of contacting languages (Japanese — English — Russian).

The names of certain national realities are transformed into international words, interlingual synonyms and homonyms become the property of the entire world community searching into the world's languages mainly through English as intermediate language.

Thus, the academic novelty of this topic consists in the object of the research (Japanese—English—Russian language contacts) and the subject of investigation especially the intermediary role of the English language presented in its Japanese regional variety.

However, one should bear in mind that the process of borrowing of English words into the Japanese language is expanding. On the one hand, it facilitates the learning of English as a foreign language because familiar roots help absorb the vocabulary. On the other hand, it serves as a barrier due to some formal semantic changes experienced by borrowing in Japanese and violation of grammatical features of the source words as part of speech of a word can change in the process of borrowing. Thus linguistic convergence takes place and we can observe and study it anywhere, anytime but especially successful it becomes to study in terms of contact between two distinctly different language structures.

In fact, there are two variations of the communicative situation requiring intermediary translation. On the one hand, it may be that two communicants for which English is not native language will have to communicate. For example, a representative

of the Japanese ethnic group speaking English and a Russian communicant, also speaking English.

For the matter of that, this situation hardly can be called a situation of intermediary translation since there is no interpreter as a participant in this situation. But when this occurs, communicants do not have the highest level of English but the lower one. Communicants' thoughts are formed not in a foreign (English) language, but in their own language and the communicants translate the content of its utterance from the native language into English and vice versa.

Communicants should understand each other for successful implementation of this communication. It is necessary to anticipate variations in speech of an interlocutor for this purpose, caused by linguistic interference. This type of translation is called intermediary translation because its implementation is held with participation of the intermediary language.

For example, in communicative situation where the treating countries are Russia and Japan can participate one or two interpreters, one of which translates from the Japanese into English, other (sometimes the second communicant) from English into Russian (or vice versa).

The English language is a means of creating an intermediate text between the original and translated ones.

Some words with cultural-oriented semantics (in our case -- orientalisms) can appear in the intermediate text. Their translation is a particular problem known in translation theory as "non-equivalent vocabulary".

In this case we are dealing with two languages one of which (English) acts as a dual function and also serves as a source language for the second part of the communicative situation. In this case, there is no bilingual situation, but trilingual one, in which the English language is an intermediary language and such translation from Japanese into Russian or vice versa is indirect.

Therefore, the intermediary translation is the process or the result of multiple adaptation of the original text in the graphic, phonetic and structural-semantic

relationships in transferable languages of which at least one serves as a lingua franca.

Two huge problems are essential for the implementation of intermediary translation: first is the knowledge of the interference variations typical for the regional (Japanese) varieties of the English language and second is an ability to translate words borrowed from Japanese from English into Russian and vice versa.

As structures of our languages have significant differences, one should note here that it is not always easy for a Russian person to find in English some Japanese words with a parallel form that were also once borrowed directly in Russian.

To draw the conclusion, one can say that Japanese borrowings penetrate into the Russian language in two ways: directly from the Japanese language and indirectly through some other languages. At present, the main source of indirect borrowings is English as an international language for communication. The spread and impact of the English language is now so strong that the tendency to the development of indirect borrowings begins to dominate which results in formation of orientalisms which are formed according to the English model rather than the model traditionally adopted by Orientalists.

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