

АКТУАЛЬНІ ПИТАННЯ ПЕРЕКЛАДОЗНАВСТВА  
[CURRENT ISSUES IN TRANSLATION STUDIES]

УДК 811.111'255.4'373.44=161.2

Стаття надійшла до редакції [Article received] – 22.12.2022 р.

Фінансування [Financing] – самофінансування [self-financing]

Перевірено на плагіат [Checked for plagiarism] – 25.12.2022 р.

Оригінальність тексту [The originality of the text] – 99.27 %

<http://doi.org/10.17721/2663-6530.2023.43.13>

EFFICIENCY OF USING DIRECT LEXICAL EQUIVALENTS IN  
TRANSLATING HISTORICISMS

*Tatiana A. Lasinska* (Kyiv, Ukraine)

[lasinskat@ukr.net](mailto:lasinskat@ukr.net)

PhD (Philology), lecturer at  
Department of Theories and Practices of Translation from the English Language  
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv  
(Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine)  
14 Taras Shevchenko Blvd., Kyiv, Ukraine, 01601

*The article investigates the effectiveness of using direct lexical equivalents in translating historicisms. The peculiarities of translating historicisms are examined and the factors that influence the choice of lexical equivalents are identified. The problems that arise when using direct lexical equivalents, such as inappropriate associations and connotations due to cultural differences, are explored. Various methods of reproducing connotations and associative fields of English historicisms in Ukrainian, such as the use of synonyms and descriptive translation, are proposed. Based on the analysis of examples from English and Ukrainian literature, conclusions are drawn about the effectiveness of different approaches to reproducing historicisms.*

**Personal contribution:** *analysis of literature and examples of translating historicisms, as well as formulated conclusions regarding the effectiveness of using different methods of translating historicisms.*

**Keywords:** *historicisms, translation, lexical equivalent, connotations, associative field, synonyms.*

(Актуальні питання перекладознавства [Aktual'ni pytannja perekladoznavstva])

Ефективність використання прямих лексичних еквівалентів при перекладі історизмів (Англійською)  
[Efektyvnist vykorystannia priamykh leksychnykh ekvivalentiv pry perekladі istoryzmiv]

© Ласінська Т. А. [Lasins'ka T. A.], [lasinskat@ukr.net](mailto:lasinskat@ukr.net)

## ЕФЕКТИВНІСТЬ ВИКОРИСТАННЯ ПРЯМИХ ЛЕКСИЧНИХ ЕКВІВАЛЕНТІВ ПРИ ПЕРЕКЛАДІ ІСТОРИЗМІВ

*Тетяна Анатоліївна Ласінська (м. Київ, Україна)*

[lasinskat@ukr.net](mailto:lasinskat@ukr.net)

кандидат філологічних наук, асистент  
кафедри теорії та практики перекладу з англійської мови  
Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка  
(Міністерство освіти і науки України)  
01601, м. Київ, бульвар Тараса Шевченка, 14

*Статтю присвячено дослідженню ефективності використання прямих лексичних еквівалентів при перекладі історизмів, розглянуто особливості перекладу історизмів та визначено фактори, що впливають на вибір лексичного еквівалента. Досліджено проблеми, що виникають при використанні прямих лексичних еквівалентів, зокрема недоречність асоціацій та конотацій, які можуть бути спричинені культурними розбіжностями. Запропоновано різні способи відтворення конотацій та асоціативного ряду англійських історизмів українською мовою, зокрема за допомогою використання синонімів та описового перекладу. На основі аналізу прикладів з англійської та української літератури, зроблено висновок про ефективність використання різних підходів у відтворенні історизмів.*

***Особистий внесок:** аналіз літератури та прикладів перекладу історизмів, а також сформульовані висновки щодо ефективності використання різних методів перекладу історизмів.*

***Ключові слова:** історизми, переклад, лексичний еквівалент, конотації, асоціативний ряд, синоніми.*

**Introduction.** Translators often face the problem of translating historical expressions that may contain connotations that do not correspond to the general tone of the text and lead to unwanted associations in readers. Therefore, the **relevance** of our work lies in researching ways of translation and the effectiveness of using equivalents in translation texts from English to Ukrainian. The **object** of the article is English historical expressions in literary texts, and the **subject** is the effectiveness of using lexical equivalents in their translation into Ukrainian.

**Main content.** One of the questions that arises when translating texts containing historicisms is the use of direct lexical equivalents. However, this

---

(Current issues in translation studies [Aktual'ni pytannja perekladoznavstva])

Efficiency of Using Direct Lexical Equivalents in Translating Historicisms (in English) [Efektyvnist vykorystannia priamykh leksychnykh ekvivalentiv pry perekladi istoryzmiv]

© Lasinska T. A. [Lasins'ka], [lasinskat@ukr.net](mailto:lasinskat@ukr.net)

approach is not always effective, as historicisms can have differences in usage and meaning in different cultures and historical periods. Therefore, the appropriateness of using direct lexical equivalents should be considered in the context and cultural environment in which the translation will be used. In most cases, it is necessary to consult additional sources, such as dictionaries and encyclopedias, to understand the true meaning of historicisms and their contextual usage. It is also important to note that historicisms may have nuances that cannot be accurately conveyed through lexical equivalents, so sometimes it is necessary to use similar terms or explanatory decipherments, for example: «*Feudal history a young man of noble birth, who attended upon a knight ...*» «*Your squire Jocelyn knows him well ...*» [1], In his translations, I. Davidenko renders the historicism "squire" with a direct lexical equivalent *зброносець* [2], However, Y. Lisnyak decided in favor of a functional equivalent *джура* [3] (squire-cadet in the Cossack leadership in Ukraine in the 16th-18th centuries [4]), which is more accurate as it has similar associative links and meanings to the English historicism *squire*, which is usually associated with noble origin and youthfulness, and also more closely corresponds to the historical context of the translation.

Based on our observations, the difference in translations by Yu. Lisnyak and I. Davydenko may be explained by the choice between clarity and accuracy in reproducing historical information using a rare word. In any case, both options contribute to the overall archaization of the text and do not affect its meaning. In the first translation, the translator avoids a direct lexical equivalent *squire*, using another historical term instead *джура*, while the second option already uses lexical replacement with the help of another historicism – *зброносець* [2].

It can be assumed that different translation options can cause different subjective associations in readers. For example, a word *зброносець* can be associated with the classic chivalric novel of the time of Don Quixote, and the word *джура* can create the impression of something oriental and unfamiliar, with a reduced stylistic connotation. These associations can affect both the perception of the text and the mood of the readers. However, the choice of a specific translation option depends on the goals of the translation, the audience and the context in which the translated text is used.

In our opinion, the following translation options are also interesting in the context of prioritizing between conveying the meaning and historical accuracy, as well as avoiding direct lexical equivalents: «*The Templar and Prior were shortly after*

(Актуальні питання перекладознавства [Aktual'ni pytannja perekladoznavstva])

Ефективність використання прямих лексичних еквівалентів при перекладі історизмів (Англійською)  
[Efektyvnist vykorystannia priamykh leksychnykh ekvivalentiv pry perekladi istoryzmiv ]

© Ласінська Т. А. [Lasins'ka T. A.], [lasinskat@ukr.net](mailto:lasinskat@ukr.net)

## PROBLEMS OF SEMANTICS, PRAGMATICS AND COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine

<http://semantics.knu.ua/index.php/prblmsemanitics>

*marshalled to their sleeping apartments by the steward and the cupbearer»* [1], where *templar* is translated as *храмовник* [3] or *тамплиєр* [2]. The translation of the historical term *templar* as *храмовник* focuses on describing the activities of a person, which is important for conveying information. This version is easily understood and readily grasped by the reader. On the other hand, the direct equivalent of *тамплиєр* as an historical term *templar* may require some knowledge of history, but is also a good option as it conveys the historical characteristics of a person. The choice between these options depends on the priority of conveying information about a person's activities or conveying their historical characteristics.

In the case of the term *prior*, as seen, Y. Lisnyak used transliteration of *пріор* [3], which is a method of bringing the historical term closer to the original, thus contributing to an accurate representation of historical information, rather than being reduced to a simple lexical equivalent (unlike *настоятель*), in I. Davidenko's translation, the lexeme *abbot* [2], which has a similar meaning, is used to convey information about the person's holy order.

The translation of the historical term *steward* as *доморядник* (according to the dictionary – *управитель*) [3] makes the text apprehensible, while the option *дворецький* [2] archaizes the text and does not convey the full information about the person's functions.

Translators use different approaches in reproducing historical words because excessive emphasis on clarity and accurate reproduction of semantics can spoil the general historical context of the work. Translations for children usually focus on using clear lexical equivalents of the native language, even if it means losing some historical information.

Descriptive translation can help create a stylized text that evokes images in readers that are not conveyed by direct lexical equivalents, for example: «... *each attended by two torchbearers and two servants carrying refreshments ...*» [1] – «... *кожного супроводили двоє слуг зі смолоскипами, а ще двоє (withdrawal) несли на тацях перекуси ...*» [3], as can be seen in Y. Lisniak's translation, the historicism of *servants* is removed, while in the descriptive translation, *torchbearer* is added. On the other hand, in I. Davidenko's translation «... *при кожному з них йшло по два служники зі смолоскипами, а ще двоє несли на тацях прохолодні напої ...*» [2], the use of the term *servants* is not accidental, as it is more authentic and reproduces the historical context of the work. It should be noted that Ukrainian

(Current issues in translation studies [Aktual'ni pytannja perekladoznavstva])

Efficiency of Using Direct Lexical Equivalents in Translating Historicisms (in English) [Efektyvnist vykorystannia priamykh leksychnykh ekvivalentiv pry perekladi istoryzmiv]

© Lasinska T. A. [Lasins'ka], [lasinskat@ukr.net](mailto:lasinskat@ukr.net)

translators usually avoid outdated variants, such as *факельник* which archaizes the text and evokes connotations of a funeral procession or a torch igniter, according to Ukrainian language lexicographic sources [193].

The lexeme *палий* has an associative range that is associated with rebellion and incitement, so it is not always an appropriate direct equivalent for translating historicisms.

In the following example «... *indicated to their retinue and to the other guests their respective places of repose ...*» [1], the equivalent *ночем* chosen by I. Davidenko and Y. Lisniak for the translation of the archaism *retinue* seems more appropriate to us, as it better conveys the meaning and evokes more relevant associations for Ukrainian-speaking readers than the historicism *кортеж*, which contains connotations of a formal and possibly inappropriate domestic scene.

The ironic nuances accompanying the use of historicisms in translations may be undesirable, as such reproduction does not always correspond to the overall mood of the text and may lead to a change in the character of the work, evoking unnecessary associations in the reader.

**Conclusion.** Information about the temporal context and certain associations can be preserved in a descriptive translation by using explanations of individual words in footnotes and rare synonyms. The choice of a translator depends on how well they match the semantic consistency of the messages and their knowledge of the readers. To reproduce the connotations and associative range of English archaisms, synonymous counterparts in Ukrainian can be used. However, a direct lexical equivalent is not always appropriate, as the associative range has national specificity and may not correspond to the author's goals. In addition, ironic connotations that may evoke unwanted associations in the reader can be undesirable.

#### Література:

1. Scott, W. *Ivanhoe* (Ware, Wordsworth Edition Ltd, 1995), 390.
2. Скотт, В. *Айвенго*, пер. з англ. І. Давиденко (Київ, Країна Мрій, 2014), 400.
3. Скотт, В. *Айвенго*, пер. з англ. Ю. Лісняка та Г. Лозинської (Київ, Школа, 2007), 494.
4. <https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Джура>.

#### References:

1. Scott, W. *Ivanhoe* (Ware, Wordsworth Edition Ltd, 1995), 390.
2. Skott, V. *Ajvengo*, per. z angl. I. Davydenko (Kyiv, Krai'na Mrij, 2014), 400.
3. Skott, V. *Ajvengo*, per. z angl. Ju. Lisnjaka ta G. Lozyns'koi' (Kyiv, Shkola, 2007), 494.
4. <https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dzhura>.

(Актуальні питання перекладознавства [Aktual'ni pytannja perekladoznavstva])

Ефективність використання прямих лексичних еквівалентів при перекладі історизмів (Англійською)  
[Efektyvnist vykorystannia priamykh leksychnykh ekvivalentiv pry perekladi istoryzmiv ]

© Ласінська Т. А. [Lasins'ka T. A.], [lasinskat@ukr.net](mailto:lasinskat@ukr.net)